

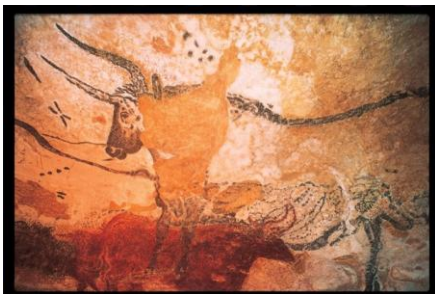
Authentic Travel and Tours presents



“Cave Art, Castles and Cuisine”

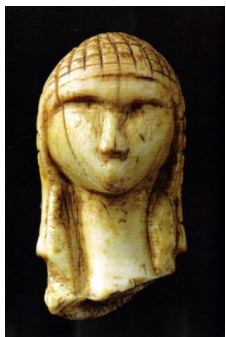
Exploring the Ancient Past and Lively Present in Southwestern France”

September 18-26, 2016



Spectacular prehistoric art, fascinating history, and great food and wine form the perfect combination for a memorable trip! Join us on a tour of the Dordogne and the Lot regions, where we will explore the cave paintings of people living 40,000 years ago, and see their art in its original setting. We will probe deeply into the meaning of the images, and learn about the geology and archaeology of the caves. Our days will be

filled with visits to these stunning prehistoric sites, along with tours of picturesque castles that will bring medieval history alive. Every day we will enjoy culinary delights as we sample the unique and delicious foods and wines of the Perigord region. The prehistoric art is stunning, and you can also expect unique activities such as a river trip in a traditional gabarre boat as you gaze up at fortified castles, wandering markets meeting local people, watching a farmer and his dog find truffles, and experiencing the workings of a family run vineyard.



THE CAVES The Vézère Valley represents more than 400,000 years of human occupation. Follow in the footsteps and learn about the art of the early human inhabitants as we delve into the cave art of 40,000 BC. In the caves, called “grottes”, the paintings give us a glimpse into



the minds of prehistoric people and are the highlight of our trip. Your tour guide has a strong background in the art and history of this time period, and noted author and archaeologist Christine Desdemaines-Hugon will be joining us to lend her expertise and research to interpreting the prehistoric sites. Her book *Stepping Stones - A Journey Through the Ice Age Caves of the Dordogne* provides excellent background and will help unravel some of the mysteries of the paintings and carvings. As we move through chambers we'll see mammoths, horses, and bison that seem to gallop and race before our eyes. Words are inadequate to describe the multi-sensory experience of standing close to art created so long ago, in dark recesses with flickering light. We will visit Lascaux II, an exact replica of the original Lascaux which is now closed for preservation. Lascaux IV is slated to open next summer, so we may be some of the first visitors to the newly expanded replica. All of the other grottes are original sites, graced with colorful and sophisticated paintings and carvings that connect us to our ancestors, and pose questions about the people and time in which they lived. Throughout the region we'll see ancient dwelling places built into the cliffs, many of which are still used today, though with a few more amenities than prehistoric or medieval times.



The Castles, called “chateaux”, rise above many of the small villages in the Dordogne River Valley, and we will be guided through the medieval strongholds of Beynac and Castlenaud. Beynac Castle near Domme is part of a fortified village perched on a 500-foot cliff overlooking the Dordogne Valley and was once the home of Richard the Lionhearted.

Watchtowers, winding passageways and parapet walks lead to an elegant interior, complete with a stunning 17th-century staircase and 15th-century frescoes of the Last Supper and the Pieta. Nearby Castlenaud documents the turbulent history of the region, with informative displays of medieval weaponry, such as catapults. Castles looming above the river or imposing themselves over valleys hold a slice of history that we will weave into our other explorations and guided tours will explain the layers of history, art and culture. Photo opportunities abound!



The Cuisine is an essential component to travel in France, and our days will take us to markets in Sarlat and other villages, where we can select fresh cheeses, croissants and an array



of local specialties. On our day trips will have lunch in cafes or restaurants as we traverse the countryside, sampling local foods and wines. The region is renowned for its foie gras, truffles, wild mushrooms and strawberries, as well as

walnuts and walnut oils, duck confit, a fabulous goat cheese called *cabécou*, and cassoulet. If you enjoy wine, you'll be in for a treat, as we are near Bordeaux (close enough to receive the finest vintages straight from the vintners' cellars!), and vineyards in the region are known for their "terroir", or unique flavor of the wine from its soil, climate and topography. Vineyards use similar grape varieties to Bordeaux to make dry reds, whites and rosés, as well as sweet dessert styles. Regional names on the label will be Bergerac, Montravel (dry white blends), Pécharment (big reds), and sweet wines from Saussignac, Rosette and Monbazillac. Other wines in the region are superb, especially the very dark locally made Malbec near Cahors.



Each day we will enjoy and absorb the countryside, breathtaking in its range from vineyards to vistas. Stone and timber framed cottages nestle in



winding streets, and you will have time to wander them.



We will be sure to visit several market days around the region, where you can sample local cheeses, try specialties of the area, and find treasures to bring home. The markets are a delight of flowers, herbs, fresh food sizzling on outdoor grills, and colorful garden produce.

Walnut oil is a speciality of the region, and locally made oil can be purchased in the market.



Lodging Our accommodation is in centrally located Les Eyzies de Tayac at Hotel Les Cro- Magnon, which is a small, family run hotel. Laurent and Valerie Besse own the hotel



and will welcome us with hospitality and warmth. Built in 1865, with the cliff face forming the back wall, the hotel exudes character, and offers lovely terrace dining. Staying in one location will allow us the maximum



amount of time to see the area and get to know it well. After returning from our daily outings, we will talk over our adventures and discuss what the next day will hold. Many evening meals with wine will be included at our hotel and prepared by Chef Laurent, who uses fresh, locally sourced foods which are prepared with creativity and authentic French flair. (Gluten free options available) There will be opportunities on 3 nights to sample some of the local restaurants and bistros on your own.



The Dordogne region is in the southwest of France, and Les Eyzies (lays-ee-zay) is France's capital of prehistory, where unprecedented fossils of Cro-Magnon people have been discovered. 15 UNESCO World heritage sites dot the region, where original artwork can still be viewed.



Your guide and tour leader is Joan Molloy Slack, who has led cultural and art related tours as college classes as well as independently through her business, *Authentic Travel and Tours* (www.authentictravelandtours.com). She has a background in art history, prehistoric art and



archaeology, having focused upon these areas in her graduate studies. She is also a professional artist, gallery owner and former museum curator at the Tweed Museum of Art, and brings all of this experience to interpreting the sites on your tour. She has been teaching and leading tours for 18 years to France, Scotland, Ireland and Mexico, with a focus upon art, prehistory and traditional arts. Her tours always include meeting local guides, experiencing the culture and cuisine of an area, exploring and absorbing the history and landscape, and seeking special places that will leave an indelible memory. Creating a unique and authentic trip is of utmost importance, and every activity is planned with this in mind. We keep the size of the group small, under 20 people so that people receive a more personalized experience.

Joan's experience in France began through studying prehistoric art worldwide as she earned her Master of Visual Arts Degree. She was fascinated with the earliest recorded art, from the cave drawings and carvings to ancient female figurines made from clay and stone. With her background in ceramics, she also studied the earliest pottery created in many cultures, but focused upon Native American and European vessels. This led her to Scotland and Ireland to study the museum collections of early European ceramics and the first musical instruments, and then to France, where she was immersed in a course leaning to create prehistoric vessels. Shortly after, she began leading small group tours to the grottes in the French cradle of civilization, the Dordogne and the Lot regions, sharing her knowledge and bringing local guides to the tour to enhance the experiences.



The Itinerary Meals provided are noted each day by B,L,D for Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner. The itinerary may be adjusted due to weather or provider conditions at our discretion. We suggest that you arrive a day early, as a buffer for possible travel delays as well as to acclimate to the new time zone. Possibilities include staying in Paris or Bordeaux.

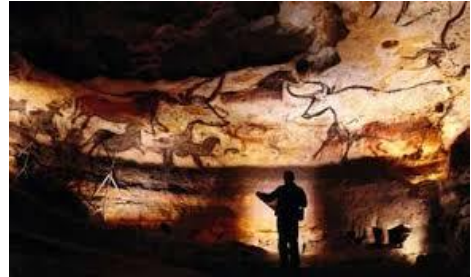
9/18 Sunday , Day 1 The group will meet at the Bordeaux airport arrivals hall at 3:00, then be transported by coach to our hotel in Les Eyzie des Tayac. The Hotel Les Cro Magnon is aptly named for the ancient history in this area, and exudes charm and warmth from owners Valerie and Laurent. This will be our base for 8 nights. We will settle into our rooms, with time for a quick walk in the village before we meet to discuss our itinerary. This will be followed by a delicious meal prepared by Chef Laurent. (D)



9/19 Monday , Day 2 It's market day in Les Eyzie, and after enjoying the sights, sounds, smells and tastes, we will meet and tour the Museum of Prehistory to put our future site visits in perspective. After lunch in the village, we will visit prehistoric site

Abri de Cap Blanc, then have a guided tour of the beautiful paintings and carvings at Font de Gaume. Dinner will be served at our hotel. (B,D)

9/20 Tuesday, Day 3 Today we will venture north to visit Lascaux. Lascaux has been called “The Sistine Chapel of Prehistory” for good reason- it is a masterpiece of art, movement and visual storytelling. The original Lascaux was closed in 1968 for preservation reasons, but officials hired artists to replicate 90% of the art in a different cave, Lascaux II. A new interpretive center is being built, named Lascaux IV, and should be ready for us to view the interactive exhibits and accurate replication of the original cave. After lunch in the charming village of St. Leon de Vezere, we will tour one of the rock shelter sites in the valley. Shelters abound in the area, and have provided us with artifacts from prehistoric through medieval occupations. We will finish with a tour of Grottes de Rouffignac, a huge cave with over 250 images. Dinner at our hotel. (B,D)



9/21 Wednesday, Day 4 We will start the day in the charming village of Sarlat with a guided walking tour and visit to the large and lively market. Sarlat is a medieval town that has been beautifully preserved, and we will learn about its history and architecture with a local guide.



After lunch, we will visit Grotte du Cougnac, a very unique site where the stalactite formations in the walls were used to create the images. Free time and

dinner in village. (B)

9/22 Thursday, Day 5 Today we will head to some of the most picturesque villages in the Dordogne. We will begin with a visit to the beautiful village of Domme, a true medieval bastide (fortified) town, which is entered through its original gate. The ancient beauty of Domme’s 13th- and 14th-century architecture is surpassed only by its exceptional views overlooking the Dordogne River. The fortified village and castle of Beynac is a masterpiece of medieval military engineering that was once a stronghold of Richard the Lionhearted, magnificently perched on a 500-foot cliff overlooking the Dordogne Valley.



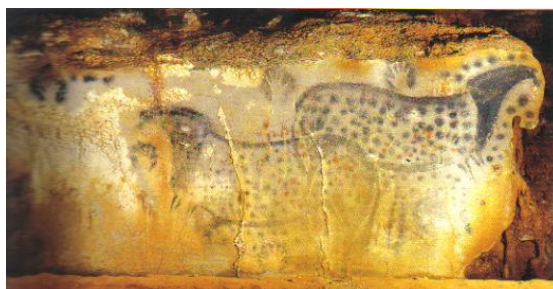


We will enjoy a cruise on the tranquil Dordogne River aboard a traditional 19th-century gabarre, experiencing life as it was a century ago, when the river was an important means of commerce and travel. Dinner at our hotel (B,D)

9/23 Friday, Day 6 We will begin our day with a visit to a local farmer who uses his dog to search for truffles. Edward says:

"The aim of the visits is simple: any visitor should be able at the end of the visit to find wilderness truffle. But for this, one must first be able to understand. I tell the story of the nose. It tells the links between plants, trees, and mushrooms; between the sun and water; but also stories of animals, pigs, dogs and flies." A

different slant on "terrior", and sure to be interesting. After this, we will tour the medieval castle of Castlenaud near Beynac, followed by some free time for walking and tasting the local wine and specialties. Dinner in village (B)



9/24 Saturday, Day 7 Today we begin with a visit to Grotte de Peche Merle, entrancing us with its artistry and unusual decorative techniques. Our guided tour will help bring alive life and the art in this grotte, and the on-site museum is very informative. We will visit the town of Cahors, with a history since Celtic times, and known for its fortified Valentre Bridge. History buffs will

enjoy a stop at the French Resistance Museum, where original posters and stories with photos of the brave men and women adorn the walls. Dinner in the village (B)



9/25 Sunday, Day 8 Free time in morning, then depart for a visit to Chateau du Haut Pegaud in Montbazillac. This is a family operated vineyard, and Christine will provide a tour of the wine making operation and vineyards, followed by a specially prepared picnic of local foods and chateau wines. After a

scenic drive, we will meet for a farewell dinner at our hotel. (B, L, D)



9/26 Monday, Day 9 Depart for Bordeaux airport. As we drive through the French countryside the experiences of our tour will remain- memories of the ancient handprints, stories painted by early humans, exquisite food and tastes of the region, regal castles and tales of medieval intrigue, and the people of this beautiful region. (B)

We hope you will join us for a trip of a lifetime!



Trip Details, Terms and Conditions: The cost of the trip is per person, double occupancy, and is based upon current quotes from vendors and transportation providers at an exchange rate of \$1.21 US dollar to 1 Euro.

The cost of the tour is \$2,765.00 per person, based upon double occupancy

What is included in the cost of the trip:

- Lodging for 8 nights at our hotel. Price is based upon 2 sharing a room with your own bed if preferred. Single rooms are very limited-please contact for availability and cost

- All ground transportation after arrival at Bordeaux airport and until last day of trip and drop-off at Bordeaux airport. Travel will be with licensed buses and drivers
- Breakfast every day
- 5 evening meals prepared by Chef Laurent, including wine
- All tour guides and admission fees, walking tours, and special events in itinerary
- Guided presentations at site visits, and gratuities
- Customized demonstrations, tours, presentations and/or performances
- Background and information throughout the tour
- Specialty picnic in a vineyard

What is not included:

- Most lunches and 3 evening meals
- Travel to and from France and any travel outside of tour dates. The tour begins and ends at Bordeaux airport
- Insurance for health, luggage, transportation, cancellation/interruption
- Personal items

Registration and Payment Information: To register for the tour, please send a check for \$2,765.00 payable to Joan Slack. You may also pay by credit card for a 2.5% administration fee: call Joan to pay by this method. You must also complete the form at the end of this brochure and mail with your payment. Space is very limited and registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Follow-up confirmation and information will be mailed to you upon registration, along with more tour details and travel tips, what to bring, reading suggestions, and flight booking details. Please do not book a flight until you receive confirmation in writing that the trip is full.

Cancellation policies: Cancellation fees apply regardless of the reason. We strongly recommend travel insurance that includes trip cancellation coverage to protect against financial loss due to cancellations and other trip interruptions. All cancellations must be in writing, and received before the deadlines listed below. The following penalties and refund policies may apply:

- \$100 charge plus any unrecoverable deposits or payments to hotels, sites, tour operators or transportation providers, February 18 through March 31, 2016.
- From April 1- July 15, 50% of tour price and any unrecoverable deposits and payments.
- July 15- August 1, 75% of tour price and any unrecoverable deposits or payments. After August 1, 2016, no refund will be allowed.
- The tour cost is per person based on currency valuations as of February, 2016. We will do everything possible to maintain costs, tour terms and itinerary, but they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control or large fluctuations in currency values. We reserve the right to alter the itinerary. If the hotel needs to be changed for reasons beyond our control, we will make every effort to find lodging of equal quality.
- We reserve the right to cancel the tour prior to departure

Flights and Arrival: Please do not book your airline flights until the trip is confirmed. Be sure to book your flights with our arrival and departure times in mind. We depart Bordeaux airport at 3:00 on Sunday, September 18, and will arrive back at the airport for departures on Monday, September 26 at 10:00 am. (NOTE: please see “add-on” trip information below) We will be happy to assist with questions about travel plans, and can suggest lodging in Bordeaux. There is a shuttle from the airport to the city center, and there are numerous hotels within minutes of the airport and served by shuttles.

<http://www.bordeaux.aeroport.fr/en> Bordeaux can be reached by plane or train from Paris, but be advised that the train station is on the opposite side of the city as the airport and will require more connections to get to the airport. Late arrivals will be responsible for their own travel arrangements to Les Eyzies.

Insurance: We strongly advise that you purchase travel insurance (we suggest travelguard or insuremytrip). Also check your personal medical insurance for coverage overseas. If not adequate it is possible to purchase a trip policy for protection.

Please feel free to call with any questions you might have. Daytime work number: 715-277-4224, evening: 715-277-2773, or cell phone: 715-550-0858 e:mail: joanslack33@gmail.com

French Wine Adventure “Add-on”



We are also offering an “add-on” option immediately after this tour which will include a wine workshop at Chateau Feely and lodging in a nearby guesthouse with chef prepared dinners. The wine experience will be held at the private vineyards of Chateau

Feely, and will be conducted by Master Sommelier Caro Feely

<http://www.frenchwineadventures.com/home.html>



If you are interested in joining this experience, please contact Joan for details and cost. Space will be very limited and available on a first come, first served basis.

Resources and links to sites we will visit:

Information on your tour leader: www.authentictravelandtours.com (see blog), www.joanslack.com, www.riverrunarts.com

<http://www.bordeaux.aeroport.fr/en>

<http://www.bordeaux.aeroport.fr/en/info/bordeaux-airport-shuttle-service>

<http://leseyziesdetayac.info/abri-de-cap-blanc/>

<http://leseyziesdetayac.info/>

<http://leseyzies-tourist.info/gallery>

<http://www.sarlat-tourisme.com/en>
<http://www.lascaux-dordogne.com/en>
<http://www.pechmerle.com/english/introduction.html>
<http://www.francethisway.com/places/beynac.php>
<http://www.francethisway.com/places/chateaubeynac.php>
<http://www.francethisway.com/places/chateaucastelnaud.php>
<http://www.beynac-et-cazenac.com/search/label/Villages>
<http://www.northofthedordogne.com/font-de-gaume.php>
<http://www.grottesdecougnac.com/>
<http://www.sarlat-tourisme.com/en/history-town>
<http://www.caveconnection.fr/page5>

A photo gallery of some of the sites and delights of the tour:



To register please return the following information with your payment:

Mail to: Joan Slack, P.O. Box 95, McNaughton, WI 54543

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ E-mail address: _____

Home Telephone #: _____ Cell phone#: _____

Room preference: Single Double Triple Roommate(s) preference: _____

Emergency contact: Name, relationship, phone, e-mail address: _____

Please list any food allergies or other health concerns. Also, please list prescription medications you are using in case of an emergency. (Use back side or a separate sheet of paper)

WAIVER OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Tour Leader (hereafter referred to as "TL"), Joan Slack, gives notice that all arrangements made by her as agent upon the express conditions that she shall not be responsible for any damage, injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of any defect of vehicle, or through the acts of default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour, or otherwise in connection therewith, nor does she accept responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delays or other changes in means of transportation or other services, due to sickness, weather, strikes, or other causes. The right is reserved to make such alterations, deletions, additions, or modifications in the itinerary, program, or accommodations as may be found necessary by the TL. While every effort is made to assure safety, the TL, and agents of the TL will not be acting in a supervisory capacity during the tour and accordingly do not accept responsibility for the activities or safety of participants. In addition, TL shall bear no responsibility for medical or other expenses resulting from illness, injury, or accident which occurs on the tour. Participants are encouraged to be adequately insured, both for health and travel. No illegal drugs or firearms are permitted. Participants are expected not to deviate from the established itinerary without prior approval from TL. If for any reason a participant must leave the tour before completion, no refunds will be allowed. TL reserves the right to ask a participant to leave the tour due to behavior that may endanger the safety of the group. My signature certifies that I have read the "Waiver of Responsibility" and that I agree to the conditions thereof.

Name

Date