



MexiMayan Academic Travel
presents:

The Prehistoric Caves of France: October 12 - 23, 2013

Day 1 & 2 Sat., Oct 12 & Sun., Oct 13. Depart **O'Hare** 6 pm on American #42 and arrive (CDG) **Paris** at 9:10 am on Oct 13. You will be met and taken to your hotel, the **Le Relais Monceaut Hotel**, to drop off your suitcase and you will board a mini bus for your first orientation tour of Paris seeing all the most significant places of fun and the **Eiffel** tour and earliest structures, such as the earliest church, the **Saint-Germain-des-Prés Church**, and examples of Romanesque and Gothic religious architecture, e.g. **Sainte Chapelle** (the king's chapel) and **Notre Dame Cathedral** and secular architecture, **La Conciergerie**, (a palace converted to a prison). The day winds down at the famous historic gathering spot for the literary and artsy, **Café Les Deux Magots** restaurant (a tad expensive, but the tax and tip (service) are included, and it's the place to be!). We will return at hotel check in time so that you can rest up for an early start the following day and to accommodate jet lag.



Day 3 Mon., Oct 14. After breakfast you will be delivered to **Gare d'Austerlitz**, the Austerlitz train station, for your train ride at 9:53am through the countryside to the picturesque **Dordogne** region with its medieval villages and Romanesque castles. Your guided tour of the painted **prehistoric caves** will begin when you step off the train at **Brive-la-Gaillard** at 1:57pm where you will be met by your drivers, Christoph and Cedric. Before going to your hotel you will visit the **UNESCO** site, **The Grotto de Rouffignac** the so-called "**Hundred Mammoths' Cave**."

Visitors board an electric train in order to view some of the figures of the mammoths, bison, horses, rhinoceros and the low "meanderings," thought to be finger doodling of children. There is also evidence of the hibernating giant cave bears (now extinct). Your stay is at **Les Cordeliers** a charming B&B in **Sarlat-la-Caneda**, a beautiful medieval village with shops and a market.



Day 4 Tues., Oct 15. After breakfast at 9:00am we depart for the spectacular copy of the world famous **Lascaux**, labeled **Lascaux II**. Our visit is at 9:45am. To preserve the famous cave this stunning copy was made. **Lascaux** is known as the “**Sistine Chapel of Prehistoric Art**”. At 11:00am we will continue on to visit **Le Thot**, an animal park with species descended from the animals that you have just seen on the **Lascaux II** walls - the aurochs (long horn African cattle), horses, bison, *Przewalski's* horses (Mongolian wild horses that are nearly extinct) and models of the extinct woolly mammoths and woolly rhinos. There are four more **Lascaux facsimiles**. Around 1:00pm we brake for a light lunch. At 2:00 we will depart for the UNESCO designated site **La Roque Saint Christophe**, the prehistoric "**Troglodyte (cave dwellers) Village**". If time we will visit a truffle farm. We will be ready to relax when we return to **Les Cordeliers**.

Day 5 Wed., Oct 16. At 9:00am we will be picked up to enjoy the beautiful paintings of **Font-de-Gaume** the only polychrome cave of its type open to the public. We then continue to **Les Combarelles** famous for its engravings and the famous "Drinking deer." After lunch, for something different, we'll visit two outdoor rock shelters: **Cap Blanc Abri** with impressive carvings and paintings and **Abri de Cro-Magnon** the places where these prehistoric Magdalenians actually lived. Time permitting, before returning to our accommodations, we will see a goose farm.



Pech Merle

Day 6 Thurs., Oct 17. At 11:00am we travel to **Les Eyzies** to visit the famous **National Museum of Prehistory**. The labels are in French but printed information is available. We will allow two hours here and then we will break for lunch but return. There are 18,000 artifacts including **beautiful carved blocks from sites now closed**. You can take photos. We will return to the old city of **Sarlat** and explore the **Cathedrale Saint-Sacerdos** and the 12th century cemetery with the enigmatic **Lantern of the Dead**.

Day 7 Fri., Oct 18. Today we will visit scenic **Beynac** and **Beynac Castle** which was the scene of several

battles during the *Hundred Years War*, some claim caused by Eleanor of Aquitaine. The castle was painstakingly restored in 1962 to evoke the life of the 12th century denizens. A Bronze Age structure was excavated near the castle. Is there a plaque? We continue on to **Pech Merle** called “one of the most stunning caves” by archaeologists. A famous panel 4m in length and dated 24,640 years ago displays sprayed hand prints and two so-called "**Spotted Horses**", really horses with significant dots on and above the bodies. The cave was painted during two different time periods.

Day 8 Sat., Oct 19. The morning is free, after lunch we're off to the train station and **Paris** where we will be transferred to **Hotel Relais Monceau** a traditional and charming hotel with breakfast. Our Paris tours will be optional, since some have visited Paris before.

Day 9 Sun, Oct 20. Today after breakfast we have an optional. We will share cabs and visit the extensive **Quai Branly** ethnographic museum famous for its African collection. The museum is eight minutes away by cab. It would be wise to research this museum beforehand to decide which areas you wish to see. The afternoon is free to visit another museum, to shop or to sit at a café sipping coffee or wine or to relax in the nearby park—pretending to be French. We will have dinner (included) near our hotel.



Day 10 Mon, Oct, 21. After breakfast we will share cabs (about 5 min,) to **Le Louvre Museum**. We will enter by the side door to avoid long security lines. The entry fee currently is \$13. Deb Stelton will lead you to some historical paintings by Gericault, Delacroix, Gros and David that will give you a feeling of French history. Afterwards we can visit the “Three Great Masterpieces”, the Winged Victory, the Venus De Milo and the Mona Lisa. For those ready for 20th century art, we can cab to the **Strada** for a French lunch (cheese and house wine or tap water) or more and continue on to the fun at the nearby **Le Pompidou Center**. The **Modern Art Museum** (\$15) is on the fourth floor and it starts with Cubism and continues through Surrealism, Expressionism Pop Art and yesterday's art. (Dinner inc.)

Day 11 Tues, Oct 22. Today we can arrange whatever is still on your list. If you want to visit **Versailles or Chartres Cathedral** we can arrange it. Another option is a trip to the **Musee D'Archeologie Nationale** located in a castle at Germain-en-Laye just outside of Paris which contains portable Ice Age art, Solutrean bas reliefs and a cast of a section of “great Magdalenian sculpted frieze.” At 7 pm will enjoy **a ride on the Seine** and a 3 course dinner with wine for our farewell dinner together at the foot of the **Eiffel Tower**, exchanging addresses, and sighing over our clinking glasses.

Day 12 Wed, Oct 23. We use a shuttle to CDG to depart Paris American Airlines flight # 41 at 12:10 noon and fly with daylight all the way home arriving home at 2:25pm. Details Deb 800 337 6394)

Tour Price:

Ground Price \$3214.00 pp in a dbl. Single supplement \$641.00.

With Air from Chicago \$4,342.50 as long as American's fare of \$1,128.50 is in effect. For fares from other cities check with Melissa at Exito Travel 623 209 8905/623 209 8905. For travel insurance check with Deb at 630 972 9090



What trip includes:

Admission to several caves with prehistoric paintings and Cro-Magnon rock shelters called "very safe" by Cultural Minister and author Jean Clottes. (Personal conversation)

Knowledgeable local guides in the caves who know where everything significant is located and are conversant of recent interpretations and theories.

Transportation by two private vehicles with knowledgeable licensed drivers.

A Round trip train ticket from **Paris** to **Brive** with transfers.

First day transfer and guided tour to see highlights of Paris and to be sensitized to time zone change.

For your convenience two hotels (less unpacking and repacking): a B & B, and a boutique hotel chosen for comfort, service and location. Hearty breakfasts are included.

In Sarlat **Les Cordeliers** has charming spacious rooms and is #1 in ranking.

Les Relais Monceau is traditional in a quiet residential area with easy access to city highlights and nearby non-touristy cafes and restaurants. Risi & Bisi Cafe is next door. Our rooms are up-graded which means they are larger than standard rooms.

Six dinners are included.

3 days in Paris at the end of the trip will be very flexible with planned activities that are optional in the mornings and free afternoons allowing some choice of activities that can be arranged for individual preference. The last night includes a Seine short cruise and dinner at a bistro at the base of the Eiffel Tower.

Not included:

Personal telephone calls, laundry, items of a personal nature. Museum entrance fees in Paris last 3 days.

Tour details

The Prehistoric Caves of France

October 12-23, 2013

TOUR CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

TOUR FEATURES: The group tour, **The Prehistoric Caves of France, October 12-23, 2013**, includes domestic train and transportation within France except with optionals where it is indicated on the itinerary, and admissions as specified per final itinerary.

TOUR COST: The ground tour cost, \$3214 per person, double occupancy and \$691.00 single supplement, is based on rates at time of publication, and on minimum group size of 10. All rates are per person and based on double occupancy, a single supplement will be charged when requested and when single rooms are available.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Secure your reservation with a \$400 deposit per person. Final payment will be due by August 10, 2013.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations must be received in writing by MMAT to qualify for a refund. . After August 12 a \$1,000 penalty will be applied. From two weeks prior to departure there will be no refund. For cancellations before August 12 Mexi Mayan will return what ever it can. It may be possible to accept another person in your place. Airline tickets, once written, belong to the passenger. If canceled ahead before departure it may be usable within a year. No refund for no-shows,

INSURANCE: Trip cancellation and some coverage for medical and other emergencies are strongly recommended. Call Deb Stelton for help with Travel Insurance at 630 972 9090.

PREREQUISITES: A passport for U. S. citizens, Openness to experience a rich and varied culture with an active friendly group of experienced travelers.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST OF THIS TOUR: Services not specifically described in the final itinerary, beverages and meals not specified, optional tips to guides, and drivers, excess baggage charges and items of a personal nature such as laundry and telephone charges.

THE TOUR OPERATOR AND THE ESCORTS: MexiMayan Academic Travel, Inc., 12S675 Knoebel Drive, Lemont, Illinois 60439, phone (630) 972-9090, specializes in cultural and educational travel, Doreen Stelton will escort the group.

RESPONSIBILITIES: MexiMayan Academic Travel, Inc., its officers and Foreign Independent Tours, Taxi Ala Carte and Les Cordeliers act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels. The suppliers will not be held responsible for accident, delay, sickness, personal injury or death, loss of personal property, additional expenses due to weather or other causes beyond their control. MexiMayan Academic Travel, Inc. reserves the right to amend the itinerary if weather or other factors make it necessary or advisable.

I agree to these conditions: _____ Date _____

QUESTIONS: For more information about the tour, please call MexiMayan at (630) 972-9090 or email

Enrollment:

Enrollment

The Prehistoric Caves of France: October 12 – 23, 2013

Land: \$3214.00 Double pp, \$641.00 Single Supplement

Please complete this entire form and enclose a \$400.00 deposit. Final payment is due August 10, 2013

Full Name (s) _____ (BirthDate) _____
(As on Passport)

_____ (BirthDate) _____

Home Address _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work _____

E-Mail: _____

Passport Number: _____ Exp _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relation _____

Health Problems _____

Comments/Special _____

Please enter my reservation for main tour

Accommodations (please indicate your Preference(s):

Please note: Your preference will be requested, but may not be available at all hotels.

I wish to share a room with _____

Please assign a non-smoking roommate.

I would prefer single accommodations where available. See SS rate.

We prefer a double bed.

We prefer two beds.

Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Please make checks payable to MexiMayan Academic Travel and mail completed form and payment to:

MexiMayan Academic Travel, Inc., 12S675 Knoebel Drive, Lemont, IL 60439