Bordeaux & Dordogne Walk

COUNTRYSIDE, CHÂTEAUX, CHURCHES & CUISINE

May 17 to 29, 2017

a program of the stanford alumni association
Travelers say that one of the best ways to get to know the culture and people of any country is to walk along its pathways and to sample its foods. If that’s true, you can’t go wrong on this walking trip of Bordeaux and the Dordogne in the southwest of France! Each day brings the exhilaration of exploring along new trails, tasting gourmet specialties, viewing historic châteaux and enjoying luxurious accommodations. We’ll have the opportunity to sip the wines of the Bordeaux region, considered among the best in the world. In the Dordogne Valley, we’ll look at early man’s first attempt at art. We hope you’ll join faculty leader Ed Steidle and historian Peter Watson on this overview of one of France’s most fascinating regions.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ‘83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**SAVOR** the flavors of delicious local meats, cheeses, vegetables, fruits and world-class wine at *en plein air* picnics and sumptuous dinners.

**VISIT** two key castles from the Hundred Years’ War, English-held Beynac and French-held Castelnaud, sitting across from each other above the Dordogne River.

**LEARN** about Eleanor of Aquitaine, an amazing woman who was daughter of a duke, wife of both French and British kings, and mother of Richard the Lionheart.
ED STEIDLE, who joined the Stanford faculty in 1984, has taught in the western culture program and in the literature and arts track in the English department. He also developed the successful Crossroads series for Continuing Studies. His areas of study focus on late antiquity and the Middle Ages, and he is currently offering a series of classes on the Renaissance and its impact on European global expansion from the 15th through 18th centuries. Raised and educated in Europe, Steidle speaks several languages and has traveled extensively throughout the Continent. Ed has served as a faculty leader on more than 40 Travel/Study programs. About this Walk, Steidle observes, “Our trip takes us through one of France’s richest and most fascinating regions, the Dordogne. In fact, it’s hard to find a period of time during which the Dordogne did not play a major role in the history of France and Europe, reaching back before the dawn of written history.” Steidle will transport us back to when the Dordogne was known as the Duchy of Aquitaine, shedding light on Duke Guillaume IX and his granddaughter, Eleanor of Aquitaine, as well as the Hundred Years’ War, the wars between the Catholics and the Huguenots, and the birth of the Bourbon dynasty’s Henry IV.

— Professor at Stanford University since 1984; has taught in the English department, graduate program in the humanities and Continuing Studies program
— BA, English and eastern philosophy, Franklin and Marshall College
— MA, Johns Hopkins University; MA, UC-Berkeley—both in comparative literature

“Ed has the rare gift of making every location and experience magical. His natural enthusiasm is contagious.”

JANET GORTH, TUSCANy AND THE ITALIAN RIVIERA, 2015

STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?bordeaux2017
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093
**Itinerary**

**WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MAY 17 & 18**

**U.S. / BORDEAUX, FRANCE / ST-ÉMILION**

Depart the U.S and fly overnight to Paris, continuing from there by plane or TGV train to Bordeaux. Upon arrival, transfer to our beautiful château just outside St-Émilion and meet fellow travelers at a welcome wine reception.

**Château Grand Barrail (5/18: D)**

**FRIDAY, MAY 19**

**ST-ÉMILION**

We begin our exploration of the famous wine country by walking from our hotel to the enchanting town of St-Émilion, perched on the slope of a steep hill. We visit the famous church before continuing our walk, which leads us to our lunch site and on along an escarpment overlooking the Dordogne River and the little town of Castillon la Bataille, scene of the last English defeat in the Hundred Years’ War. We return later to our hotel for a superb evening meal.

**Château Grand Barrail (B,l,D)**

**WALKS:** morning, approx. 2 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 2 hours of walking

**SATURDAY, MAY 20**

**ST-ÉMILION & THE POMEROL WINE REGION**

Today is spent in the beautiful vineyards of the Médoc. Drive to the northern side of the Gironde estuary and choose between two options to walk down to the little town of Blaye with its star-shaped fortress to board a boat that takes us across the estuary to the Médoc wine region. Here we are among the famous grand cru villages as we continue our walk to Margaux where we finish with a visit to a château and a wine tasting. Return by road to St-Émilion.

**Château Grand Barrail (B,l,D)**

**OPTION I:** morning, approx. 2 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 2 hours of walking

**OPTION II:** morning, approx. 2 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 2 hours of walking

**SUNDAY, MAY 21**

**ST-ÉMILION / LES EYZIES-DE-TAYAC**

We begin the day driving to the east toward the heart of the Dordogne region. Our walk today leads down to the little town of Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, where we stay for the next three nights.

**Hôtel Les Glycines (B,l,D)**

**WALKS:** morning, approx. 2 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 2 hours of walking

**MONDAY, MAY 22**

**LES EYZIES-DE-TAYAC**

Our walks today take us past some of the most important rock shelters in the Dordogne where our ancestors lived some 30,000 years ago. After lunch we continue our walk. At the end of the day we return to Les Eyzies-de-Tayac.

**Hôtel Les Glycines (B,l,D)**

**OPTION I:** morning, approx. 2 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 1.5 hours of walking

**OPTION II:** morning, approx. 2 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 3 hours of walking

**TUESDAY, MAY 23**

**LES EYZIES-DE-TAYAC**

Our route this morning leads east where our first stop is at the remarkable château of Marqueyssac, which dominates the area and boasts one of the most splendid gardens in the Dordogne. We spend the rest of the day walking sections of the route between the fine old castles of Castelnaud and Beynac, two of the most historically significant châteaux of the Dordogne. The history of the Anglo-French Hundred Years’ War is encapsulated in these two bastions, separated by the meandering Dordogne River.

**Hôtel Les Glycines (B,l,D)**

**WALKS:** morning, approx. 2 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 2 hours of walking

**OPTION I:** morning, approx. 2.5 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 2 hours of walking
LES EYZIES-DE-TAYAC / BRANTÔME
Leaving Les Eyzies-de-Tayac this morning, we drive to the town of Périgueux and on to the little town of Bourdeilles dominated by its fine château. From here we walk to the delightful village of Brantôme where we spend the next two nights at our hotel, the ivy-clad Moulin de l’Abbaye, a renowned member of the Relais et Châteaux chain; the boutique hotel has been awarded a Michelin star for its food.

MOULIN DE L’ABBAYE (B,l,D)

OPTION I: morning, approx. 1.5 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 1 hour of walking

OPTION II: morning, approx. 1.5 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 2.5 hours of walking

THURSDAY, MAY 25
BRANTÔME
We have time today to explore the village of Brantôme as well as its magnificent abbey before starting out on today’s walk. We picnic beside the ruins of a tiny Cistercian abbey before continuing on to visit the great Renaissance château of Puyguilhem. Tonight we are free to try one of the restaurants in the town.

MOULIN DE L’ABBAYE (B,L,D)

OPTION I: total, approx. 3.5 hours of walking

OPTION II: total, approx. 5 hours of walking

SATURDAY, MAY 27
LACAVE / SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA
This morning we drive to the market town of Sarlat-la-Canéda, capital of the old Périgord, where we take time to visit this beautiful town with its fine church and Renaissance houses before lunch. After lunch we drive on through Souillac before starting our walk that leads us along the river and back to our hotel. Tonight we enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

CHÂTEAU DE LA TREYNE (B,L,D)

OPTION I: morning, city walking; afternoon, approx. 1 hour of walking

OPTION II: morning, approx. 2 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 3.5 hours of walking

SUNDAY, MAY 28
LACAVE / ROCAMADOUR
Our final walk is along the Alzou River and leads to a fortified mill where our picnic lunch awaits us. After lunch, continue walking to Rocamadour, a pilgrim-age town spectacularly located on a steep slope. This evening celebrate our walk at a superb farewell reception and dinner at our hotel.

CHÂTEAU DE LA TREYNE (B,L,D)

OPTION I: morning, approx. 1 hour of walking; afternoon, approx. 2 hours of walking

OPTION II: morning, approx. 2 hours of walking; afternoon, approx. 2 hours of walking

MONDAY, MAY 29
LACAVE / BRIVE OR TOULOUSE AIRPORT / U.S.
Transfer from our hotel to Brive for train connections to central Paris or transfer to the Toulouse airport to connect to flights to the U.S. (B)
Walk Options

In order for you to fully enjoy this remarkable region of France, we’re offering two options for most of the days of our countryside walking.

**OPTION I** offers a walk of three to seven miles over varied terrain that allows walkers time to enjoy the scenery and cultural sites at a more leisurely pace.

**OPTION II** provides a longer, more strenuous walk, or hike, of between five and 12 miles that allows more adventurous walkers to cover more terrain of the wilder parts of the countryside. These walking trails can be rugged. On some days Option II walkers may be asked to carry their own water and picnic lunches. In some instances, it will not be possible for walkers on the longer walks to visit or spend as much time at some of the sites on our itinerary as those taking the shorter option.
Trip Information

DATES
May 17 to 29, 2017 (13 days)

SIZE
28 participants; single accommodations limited—please call for availability.

COST
$9,695 per person, double occupancy
$11,885 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

INCLUDED
11 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations • 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 10 dinners • Wine and water included with all lunches and dinners • Welcome and farewell cocktail reception • Gratuities to guides and drivers for all group activities • All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this to be a moderately strenuous, physically demanding program, depending in part on your choice of the two walk options offered most days. Daily walks range from approximately three to 12 miles in length. All of our walks are led by experienced leaders. Most days offer two walk options, with varying distances and levels of difficulty. You should plan to walk with the group you’ve chosen for the entire day. The terrain of southwestern France consists of rolling hills and valleys with some open pastureland and woodland. The excellent countryside trails are often farm tracks that wind among vineyards, pasture land and shaded woodlands. The paths are sometimes rocky or have exposed roots and can be muddy or wet at times. Sturdy, well-fitting and broken-in hiking shoes with ankle support are essential. To participate fully in this walking tour, you need to be physically fit, agile and used to moderate exercise. All participants must be able to navigate rocky paths without the assistance of handrails or tour staff. Several of our daily excursions might be considered by some participants to be hikes rather than walks. However, if you are in good shape and active, you should have no problem keeping up with the group. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Terms & Conditions

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?bordeaux2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in August 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

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“Stunningly beautiful countryside and story-book little villages, experienced close-up with a group of intelligent, articulate, fun people, plus delicious meals prepared with local fresh ingredients, and lovely, comfortable rooms for rest and recovery from each day’s new impressions and exertions!”

NEANNA MILES, BURGUNDY AND ALSACE WALK, 2015