

TASTES OF FRANCE

May 16 – 27, 2020

Join veteran tour leaders Martha Bowser-Kiener and Jack Kiener to discover the history, culture, foods and wines of Bordeaux, the Dordogne, and Paris. This tour is sure to please the eye—and the palate!

Price, per person, based on double occupancy: \$3,990

Single supplement: \$780.00

Included in this price:

- 10 overnights in superior tourist/moderate first-class hotels
- All breakfasts, buffet style
- 4 group dinners, plus a picnic lunch
- 3 winery visits, with tastings: *St. Émilion*, *Pomerol* and *Château Montbazillac*
- Services of local, licensed guides, as noted in itinerary
- Services of deluxe motor coach, A-C equipped, May 20-25 (tolls, fees, city permits incl.)
- Entrance fees to sites, as noted in itinerary
- 1 Paris metro “carnet” (10 tickets) per participant
- Rail journey from the Dordogne to Paris
- Gratuities to coach drivers and local guides
- Airport transfers in Bordeaux and Paris
- Round-trip air: Chicago>Frankfurt>Bordeaux//Paris>Frankfurt>Chicago

Not included:

- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Drinks with dinner
- Luggage handling at hotels (though, of course, we will help!)
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Airport transfers in the United States

Hotels:

May 17, 18, 19: Bordeaux <https://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1281-hotel-mercure-bordeaux-centre-ville/index.shtml>

May 20, 21, 22, 23: Chancelade-Périgueux <http://www.chateau-hotel-perigord.com/English--Orangerie-of-the-castle.phtml>

May 24, 25, 26: Paris <https://www.hotelprincessecaroline.fr/fr/>

Here's a brief description of our daily activities:

- Sat., May 16 Transatlantic Lufthansa flight leaves Chicago O'Hare at 10:45 pm
- Sun., May 17 Arrival Frankfurt for connecting flight to Bordeaux
Arrival Bordeaux at 5:50 pm
Hotel check-in followed by (included) Welcome Dinner at hotel or nearby restaurant
Overnight Hotel Mercure Centre Ville
- Mon., May 18 Bordeaux
Morning walking tour of *Vieux Bordeaux* (the Old City) with a local guide
Afternoon free for further exploration of the city
Dinner on own
Overnight Hotel Mercure Centre Ville
- Tues., May 19 Bordeaux
Mid-morning departure for excursion to *St. Émilion* and *Pomerol* wineries
Lunch & dinner on own
Overnight Hotel Mercure Centre Ville
- Wed., May 20 Bordeaux>Chancelade-Périgueux (Dordogne)
Early departure from hotel
Visit to the Bordeaux *Marché des Capucins*—a vast, wonderful food market
Lunch at market or *en route*
Drive through the lovely Dordogne River Valley to *Château Montbazillac* & its winery
Arrival at hotel in early evening —(included) dinner at hotel
Overnight at the Orangérie, Château des Reynats
- Thurs., May 21 Dordogne Sightseeing
Departure by coach for a visit to the pre-historic cave, the *Grotte de Rouffignac* where we'll ride the electric train to view cave paintings dated to the Upper Paleolithic Period!
Continuation by coach to the sacred town of Rocamadour, perched on the side of a limestone cliff with magnificent views of the Alzou Canyon.
Lunch (on own) in Rocamadour
Return to Périgueux hotel in late afternoon; dinner on own.
Overnight at the Orangérie, Chateau des Reynats
- Fri., May 22 Dordogne Sightseeing
Departure by coach after breakfast for the town of Domme, classified as one of the most beautiful villages of France. Lunch (on own) in Domme.
After lunch, we'll embark on a reproduction of an 18th c. boat at the nearby village of *La Roque Gageac* for a ride (~50 mins) through the historic Périgord region
Return to hotel in late afternoon; dinner on own
Overnight at the Orangérie, Château des Reynats

- Sat., May 23 Dordogne Sightseeing
Morning departure by coach to the town of Sarlat-la-Canéda, renowned for its food market. Browse, eat, and shop for items for our group picnic lunch at the nearby 17th c. chateau and gardens, *Jardin de Marqueyssac*.
Return to hotel; dinner (on own)
Overnight at the Orangérie, Château des Reynats
- Sun., May 24 Dordogne>Paris
Early breakfast and hotel check-out
Transfer by coach to Brive-la-Gaillarde (1.5 hrs) for “intercity” train to Paris
Lunch on train (picnic style?)
3:20 pm arrival Paris Austerlitz Station; met by private coach for Paris orientation drive
Hotel check-in (very near the iconic Arc de Triomphe)
Group dinner (included) in Montmartre’s *Place du Tertre*—we’ll get there and back by metro!
Overnight Hotel Princesse Caroline
- Mon., May 25 Paris
Free day in Paris! We know you have lots of ideas, but rest assured that your leaders will be more than happy to suggest/advise/assist and facilitate, as needed. Perhaps a morning stroll together to the nearby *Arc de Triomphe* and a bit beyond to the *Tour Eiffel*?
Lunch and dinner on own today
Overnight Hotel Princesse Caroline
- Tues., May 26 Paris
Another free day to explore whatever YOU want to see and do in the City of Lights.
Note: It is highly recommended that you check on-line/purchase tickets well in advance for major sites, taking note of weekly closings (for ex: The Louvre is closed Tues.; the Musée d’Orsay and Musée Picasso are closed Monday). Or consider purchasing a Paris Visite Pass <https://www.raileurope.com/pass/paris-visite-pass-8339>
<https://booking.parisinfo.com/>
Lunch on own
7:00 pm Farewell Dinner (included) at a local restaurant, followed by an enchanting after-dark Seine River Cruise (included). Travel by metro (you’re a pro now!)
Overnight at Hotel Princesse Caroline
- Wed., May 27 Return to U.S.
11:30 am coach transfer to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport
2:20 pm flight to Frankfurt/5:15 pm Lufthansa flight departs Frankfurt for Chicago
7:25 pm arrival Chicago O’Hare Welcome Home!