Travel back in time through the art of our ancestors where the earliest human expression is captured on cave walls.

Imagine standing in the cool damp air of a large cave behind an artist working charcoal and earth pigments onto the rough surface, brightly lit by smoking flames fueled by animal fat in shallow stone bowls. The flickering light throws shadows on life-sized depictions of horses, reindeer, and of course, the bulls—large, fierce, and strong. Outside, the glacial period of earth’s past holds the realm of woolly mammoths and a struggling population of early humans and Neandertals. This area of central France—riddled with caves and, 10,000 to 25,000 years ago, rich in animals depicted within those walls—cloaks a unique environment and an enduring, rich prehistoric trove for our contemplation.

ASU’s Institute of Human Origins has led travelers to this region of France since the 1980s, providing insights not just of the history of the people who created the amazing drawings, but also where they fit into the long history of human evolution. IHO’s established connections in the region and access to “behind the scenes” experiences make this tour an extraordinary journey, not replicable through other tour operators.

The tour includes museums, which set the scene and history of the area, and ten caves featuring original cave paintings, some dating to 25,000 years ago and older. The tour includes the jewel, Lascaux II, the companion to the original Lascaux cave, which has been closed to the public to protect it from further deterioration. Close-by the original Lascaux cave entrance, Lascaux II will not disappoint! It is an exact replica, painstakingly using the same charcoals and pigments with the same techniques as our imagined artist above. The temperature and humidity have been replicated as well for an overall authentic experience.

And how could you visit one of the premier regions of the world for food and wine without sampling all that it has to offer? This tour includes sumptuous meals in beautiful, classic rural France settings—picnics overlooking broad rivers, gastronomique dinners with fine red wines, and the desserts! Magnifique!

The tour is led by independent researcher Roy Larick, who besides being a fluent French speaker, has led tours through the French caves since 1986. Joining the tour later in the week is famed paleoanthropologist Donald C. Johanson, Founding Director of the Institute of Human Origins and discover of “Lucy,” the 3.2 million year old fossil skeleton in Ethiopia.
Johanson has had the privilege of entering the original Lascaux cave and has also visited this region and the tour’s caves many times. Johanson, a professor and scientist at ASU, will illuminate the enigmatic relationship between Paleolithic Europe’s two competing human species—Neandertal and modern humans. Larick will outline the intimate link between early human and Ice Age predators and how the intersection of these species underlies the rise of Paleolithic art. Together, they bring a depth of understanding of human history and a rich knowledge of human evolution to make this a special odyssey for the eyes, the heart (and stomach!), and the mind.

The tour’s small group encourages a collegial, relaxed experience, and the hotels are carefully selected boutique hotels, well-known to past IHO travelers for comfort and hospitality.

**Itinerary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>Arrive in Bordeaux, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 3 and 4</td>
<td>Hotel Burdigala, Bordeaux (two nights includes tax and porterage)</td>
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<td>Welcome evening lecture on September 3, with dinner at the hotel including wine</td>
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<td>September 4</td>
<td>Visit Musée d’Aquitaine, Bordeaux (via walking, taxi, or tram)</td>
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<td>Walking tour of historic Bordeaux</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Breakfast: Hotel Burdigala</td>
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<td>Lunch: Les Negociants including wine</td>
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<td>Dinner: La Tupina including wine</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5–11</td>
<td>Leave Bordeaux by luxury motor coach to travel to Les Eyzies-de-Tayac. All transportation to venues will be by luxury motor coach.</td>
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<td>Accomodations at Hotel du Centenaire, Les Eyzies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Seven nights including five dinners and two lunches</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Visit Chateau la Renaudi for a wine tasting.</td>
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<td>This 18th-century castle is situated in the town of Lembras, not far from Bergerac. Built on the top of a hill, it dominates the region and offers an unforgettable setting between vineyards and forest. The soil, rich in iron, gives this vin de garde a subtle bouquet, making this one of the finest wines in the Dordogne. The visit includes a walk in the vineyard and a visit of the cellar. Wine tasting includes a rosé Bergerac Sec and Monbazillac, pecharmans wines.</td>
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<td>Abri Pataud: Overlooking Vezere River in the Dordogne Valley of Bordeaux, cave paintings date between 20,000 to 40,000 years ago.</td>
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<td>Breakfast: Hotel Burdigala</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch: L'Imparfait in Bergerac</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dinner: Hotel du Centenaire</td>
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September 6

Musée National de Préhistoire. Les Eyzies-de-Tayac.
On a cliff above the village, this $30-million museum became the major cultural event of the French world when it opened in the summer of 2004. Designed by Florentine architect Jean-Pierre Buffi, this strikingly modern building stands next to a fortress-castle from the 16th century. This museum is hailed for its treasure-trove of Ice Age artifacts, one of the two or three greatest collections in the world.

Pole International de la Prehistoire. The Prehistory Welcome Center, opened July 2010, is dedicated to the discovery and knowledge of prehistory and the Vezere Valley, welcoming tourists and providing them with information on the subject of prehistory.

Breakfast: Hotel du Centenaire
Lunch: Hotel du Centenaire
Dinner: Les Glycines including wine

September 7

Bernifal Cave: Decorated with over 100 engravings and paintings, dating to 12,000 years old.
Explore the quaint town of Périgueux including the market
Breakfast: Hotel du Centenaire
Lunch: On your own
Dinner: Hotel du Centenaire

September 8

Visit Cap Blanc Abri: Cap Blanc is one of the great masterpieces of the monumental art of sculpture of the upper Palaeolithic (35,000 to 10,000 years ago). It features prehistoric frieze sculptures of horses, bison, and reindeer carved into limestone cliffs.

Abri du Moustier is known for a fossilized skull of the species Homo neanderthalensis that was discovered in 1909. The Mousterian tool culture is named after Le Moustier, who was first excavated in 1863.

Sergeac is home to a number of rock shelters with Upper Paleolithic sites excavated early in the 20th century. One site has a current research program with new dates suggesting an early Aurignacian occupation at nearly 35,000 years ago. The village of Sergeac has an impressive medieval church.

Breakfast: Hotel du Centenaire
Lunch: Hotel du Centenaire
Dinner: Le Moulin de la Beune

September 9

Rouffignac: Famous as the “Cave of the Hundred Mammoths" and contains over 250 engravings and cave paintings dating to the Upper Paleolithic era. Visitors board an electric train that takes them two kilometers to the interior of the cave. Set by the picturesque LaBinche River.

Lascaux II and Le Thot: The jewel of the cave tour—Lascaux II features the Great Hall of Bulls and the Painted Gallery. The original cave was discovered by two boys in 1940 but by 1963 had to be closed to the public due to
the deterioration of the art from mold, algae, and carbon dioxide from over 100,000 visitors per year during its earliest years of tours. Lascaux II’s interior faithfully reproduces the curves and contours of the original cave, with the art and environment painstakingly reproduced to give visitors an authentic experience. The Centre d’Art Préhistorique at Le Thot features reproductions of other Lascaux artwork not shown in the Lascaux II cave.

Breakfast: Hotel du Centenaire
Lunch: Le Soleil d’Or including wine (in Montignac)
Dinner: Hotel du Centenaire

September 10

Pech-Merle: Dating from the Gravettian culture around 25,000 BC to the Magdalenian period (16,000 BC), this cave features woolly mammoths and other animals and footprints of children found almost a half mile underground.

Cougnac: Two caves of the Upper Paleolithic era featuring animals but also human figures interpreted as wounded men, virtually identical to similar figures at Pech-Merle.

Breakfast: Hotel du Centenaire
Lunch: L’Auberge des Grottes including wine (in Cabrerets)
Dinner: Hotel du Centenaire

September 11

Villages of Sireuil and Sarlat, and La Roque St. Christophe (if there is time and interest). La Roque St. Christophe is a limestone cliff, eroded by the river into natural rock shelters that were occupied 55,000 years ago.

Breakfast: Hotel du Centenaire
Lunch: On your own in Sarlat
Dinner: Hotel du Centenaire
Accommodations: Hotel du Centenaire

September 12

Travel from Les Eyzies to Bordeaux by luxury motor coach.
Visit the cave of Pair-non-Pair: One of the world’s oldest decorated cave sites.

Accommodations: Hotel Burdigala including breakfast, tax, and porterage
Breakfast: Hotel Burdigala
Lunch: Hotel Burdigala
Dinner: Chez Dubern including wine (walking or taxi)

September 13

Independent departures: Bordeaux Airport for U.S.