Join archaeologists to explore the evolution of prehistoric art in the UNESCO World Heritage-listed caves of Southwestern France and Northern Spain.

**The Origins of Man in Southwest France and Northern Spain**

**Roderick James McIntosh '73**  
Professor of Anthropology  

October 10-19, 2020

**Join** archaeologists and Yale faculty to experience world-renowned and lesser-known cave art sites from Lascaux IV and Pech Merle to El Castillo, piecing together the story of Europe’s oldest inhabitants.

**Explore** the medieval gems of Dordogne and Cantabria, including Sarlat-la-Canéda and Santillana del Mar, and enjoy time to explore the lively cities of Toulouse and Bilbao.
Yale Educational Travel

October 10-19, 2020

The Origins of Man in Southwest France and Northern Spain

Study Leader:
Roderick James McIntosh ’73
Professor of Anthropology
Dear Yale Traveler

Join us on a journey from France’s scenic Dordogne region to the caves of Cantabria, Spain. Discover the mysteries, the creativity, and the extraordinary imagination of our early ancestors who created stunning works of art tens of thousands of years ago. Accompanied by your study leader, Rod McIntosh ’73, Professor of Anthropology at Yale, you’ll visit Lascaux’s cave, arguably the most famous prehistoric cave art site in the world. Professor McIntosh’s expertise in prehistoric archaeology, geomorphology, and palaeoclimate provides a fascinating lens through which to explore southwestern France and northern Spain, where Neanderthals, Cro-Magnons, and Homo sapiens made their homes in vast cave systems.

Meet with local archaeologists, including Isabelle Castanet, whose family has been excavating early human dwellings discovered on their land since the 1920s, and Dr. Ana Cristina Pinto-Llona, who has worked for years at Spain’s Atapuerca caves, a UNESCO world heritage site with some of Europe’s oldest fossil finds. As you explore the Dordogne region, Basque Country, and northern Spain, you’ll stay in beautiful places: a cliff-side village on the Vezère River, an age-old monastery in Toulouse, and a Parador in the medieval gem of Santillana del Mar in Spain.

Travel into the distant past as we examine some of the world’s earliest works of art and what they reveal about the everyday lives of our ancient ancestors. If you have questions about this program, or you’d like to register, please call us at 203-432-1952 or email edtravel@yale.edu. You can also find out more online at www.alumnitravel.yale.edu/originsman20.

Best wishes from Yale,

Lauren Summers
Senior Director, Alumni Lifelong Learning and Travel

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Highlights

Enjoy a specially arranged visit to Lascaux IV, an exact replica of the original cave set within a new, state-of-the-art exhibition center.

Examine the impressive ancient art of Castel-Merle with an archaeologist whose family discovered the site.

See the oldest original cave paintings in the world at El Castillo, and join a renowned archaeologist for a visit to the Atapuerca caves.

Bilbao, Spain

Santillana del Mar, Cantabria, Spain
Roderick James McIntosh '73 is the J. Clayton Stephenson/Yale Class of 1954 Professor of Anthropology at Yale University and the Curator-in-Charge of the Anthropology Division at the Yale Peabody Museum, as well as Honorary Distinguished Professor of Archaeology at the University of Pretoria (South Africa). He has been a Guggenheim Fellow, twice a Fulbright Senior Fellow (Senegal and Mali), and has held a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (Stanford). Before returning to Yale in 2006, he taught at Rice University for more than twenty-five years.

A popular professor with students, Professor McIntosh has traveled extensively for Yale Educational Travel in Africa, the Mediterranean, and Dordogne, and visited nearly every cave with rock art open to the public in the Dordogne region. One of his proudest moments was “baptizing” his son in the Dordogne River, a body of water sacred to archaeologists.

He boasts 35 years of fieldwork (excavations and surveys) in French-speaking Africa and the southern Sahara of Mali (around Timbuktu), Madagascar, and in the Middle Senegal Valley of northern Senegal. His major interests are in African and Old World comparative prehistory, intellectual history of prehistoric archaeology, ethnicity and specialization and the origin of authority in complex society, urbanism, geomorphology and palaeoclimate, international art market, prehistoric symbols, and ideology.
ITINERARY
October 10-19, 2020

WELCOME PHONE CALL:
October 1, 2020 (tentative)
Join the group at 4:00 pm Eastern for a pre-trip welcome call to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

U.S.
Saturday, October 10
Depart the U.S. for Bordeaux, France.

Bordeaux/Vezère Valley
Sunday, October 11
Arrive in Bordeaux and travel east into the Dordogne—a beautiful region still commonly known by its pre-revolutionary name, Périgord. Your route follows the Dordogne River as it wends past rolling meadows and castle-topped hills. Over millions of years, this karst landscape has been whittled away by its rivers, forming cliffs and caves where early humans found shelter. Your home in the Dordogne is the Hôtel Le Centenaire, a charming country inn set in the village of Les Eyzies-de-Tayac — which is itself built into the side of a karst cliff. After settling in, gather for a welcome reception and dinner with your professor. (R,D)

Lascaux IV/Castel-Merle
Tuesday, October 13
This morning, meet prehistoric cave expert Sandrine Geraud for a specially-arranged visit to the new International Center for Cave Art, the home of Lascaux IV. Opened in late 2016, this state-of-the-art center presents not only the meticulously recreated paintings of the original cave site—closed to the public since 1963 to preserve the fragile paintings — but it also reconstructs the experience of discovering the cave full of ancient art in 1940. Later, visit the site of Castel-Merle with archaeologist Isabelle Castanet, whose great-grandfather discovered prehistoric etchings and artifacts in stone shelters on the family homestead. Enjoy a “prehistoric” lunch made with ingredients used by Neanderthals, and then head to Rouffignac Cave, an eight-kilometer-long cave filled with more than a hundred drawings and carvings of mammoths. (B,L,D)

Pech Merle/Toulouse
Wednesday, October 14
Travel south this morning to the Lot region, home to Pech Merle, an immense cave with art that dates back 25,000 years. Within its galleries lie some rare finds: spotted animals, the silhouette of a human hand, and even a child’s footprints preserved in the clay. After lunch on your own, continue to the vibrant university town of Toulouse, called the “pink city” for the rose-colored stone of its buildings. Check into the Grand Hôtel de l’Opéra, a former monastery situated on the city’s main square. (B)

Vezère Valley
Monday, October 12
Spend the morning at the National Museum of Prehistory, partially housed in a 16th-century castle and home to an extraordinary collection of prehistoric artifacts. Enjoy lunch on your own in Les Eyzies before venturing into the cave of Font-de-Gaume. Here, you’ll have a rare chance to see some 200 original paintings dating back about 14,000 years featuring bison, mammoths, horses, and even a woolly rhinoceros. This afternoon, wander through the narrow lanes of Sarlat-la-Canéda, a medieval gem of mustard-colored, half-timbered houses. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B,D)

Basque Country / Santillana del Mar, Spain
Thursday, October 15
Journey into France’s Basque region today. Following lunch, join a prehistory specialist to

In March 2019, the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History wrapped up “The Artist’s Eye: Figurines of the Paleolithic,” an exhibition of sculptures that incorporate replicas of prehistoric figurines. Artist Cornelia Kubler Kavanagh recreated two figurines found in caves near Toulouse in southwestern France.
explore the Istaritz and Oxocelhaya caves. Paleoanthropologists have determined that early humans inhabited these superimposed caves for some 80,000 years, and the artifacts found within—musical instruments, carved reindeer horns, tools made from whale bones—offer clues about their lives. This afternoon, we enter Spain and follow the coast to the Cantabria region. Settle into the Parador de Santillana Gil Blas, a manor house in the heart of Santillana del Mar, one of Spain’s best-preserved medieval villages. *(B,L)*

**Puente Viesgo Caves**  
**Friday, October 16**

The caves of Cantabria harbor some of the oldest art in the world and have earned the region recognition as a World Heritage site. Spend the morning at the caves of Puente Viesgo, which were recently discovered to be thousands of years older than previously thought. The new dates call into question the identity of the artists: were they Neanderthal or Homo sapien? At El Castillo, examine original paintings, the oldest of which date back 40,800 years. Then explore the nearby Las Monedas cave, where paintings of goats and bears seem to have been rendered during a colder climatic period. This afternoon, visit the Museum of Altamira to see an exact full-size replica of the magnificent paintings of the Altamira Cave. *(B,L,D)*

**El Pendo/ Bilbao**  
**Saturday, October 17**

This morning, head into your final cave, El Pendo. Archaeologists here continue to make significant discoveries, including evidence of a permanent Neanderthal settlement found in 2017. After lunch, journey to Bilbao, the political capital of the autonomous Basque people. Check into the Hotel Miró, located just steps from the world-renowned Guggenheim Museum designed by Frank Gehry. Hotel Miró *(B,L)*

**Atapuerca / Bilbao**  
**Sunday, October 18**

Archaeologist Dr. Ana Cristina Pinto-Llona joins you today for a special visit to the caves of Atapuerca, where she has worked for several years. Named a World Heritage site in 2000, these caves have yielded an incomparable trove of fossils and artifacts, including some of the oldest hominin fossils found in Europe. Return to Bilbao and gather for a farewell dinner this evening. *(B,L,D)*

**Bilbao**  
**Monday, October 19**

After breakfast, transfer to Bilbao Airport for your flight home. *(B)*

**What Is Included:**

- Program of lectures and discussions with Yale Faculty leaders  
- All site visits, activities, entrance fees, and guided tours as listed in the itinerary  
- All meals and receptions as outlined in the itinerary  
- Accommodation as outlined in the itinerary  
- The services of a professional Tour Manager from pre-departure through the end of the trip  
- The services of French and Spanish guides throughout the trip  
- Gratuities to hotel personnel, local guides, and drivers on included excursions and transfers  
- Transfers and luggage handling for arrivals and departures that coincide with itinerary travel dates  
- Taxes on included services  
- Emergency medical evacuation services through UHC Global Assist  
- QuietVox Headsets

**What Is Not Included:**

- Airfare from your home city to France and return from Spain  
- Passport, visa, and airport departure taxes  
- Airport transfers and baggage handling for arrivals and departures on dates other than those in the itinerary  
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance  
- Expenses of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone, hotel spa services, food and alcohol beyond meal inclusions, etc.  
- Gratuities for non-group activities  
- Activities described as optional in the itinerary  
- Expenses resulting from delays due to bad weather, road conditions, sickness, government action, and flight delays

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Program Cost

The base cost for this program is: $6,995 (based on double occupancy)
Single Supplement: $850 (limited availability)
Deposit Amount: $1,000
Final payment deadline: July 10, 2020

Accommodations

HÔTEL LE CENTENAIRE – LES EYZIES-TEYRAC, FRANCE (3 nights)
The 21-room Hotel le Centenaire is a charming boutique hotel with a central location in the village of Les Eyzies-Teyrac. Surrounded by lovely gardens and patios, the hotel offers individually decorated rooms with modern amenities and a gourmet restaurant.

GRAND HÔTEL DE L’OPÉRA – TOULOUSE, FRANCE (1 night)
The four-star Grand Hôtel de l’Opéra is set within a 17th-century monastery on the Place du Capitole. The hotel features rooms with lush colors and modern amenities, a spa, a bar and lounge, and an affiliated restaurant run by a Michelin-starred chef.

PARADOR DE SANTILLANA GIL BLAS – SANTILLANA DEL MAR, SPAIN (2 nights)
The Parador de Santillana Gil Blas is an 18th-century manor house at the heart of this pedestrian-only medieval village. Rooms and common spaces have old-world décor and modern amenities, and the property features a walled garden, a sunny courtyard, and an acclaimed restaurant.

HOTEL MIRÓ – BILBAO, SPAIN (2 nights)
The stylish Hotel Miró is steps from the Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum, which can be seen from some of its light-filled, contemporary rooms. Along with a library, bar, and wellness center, the hotel offers a gourmet breakfast.

Reserve Your Space Today
Book online: alumnitravel.yale.edu/originsman20
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- discover card
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- expiration date
- security code

Accommodations
- I wish to have a single (limited availability – please call)
- preference

Travel Options
- I/We confirm that I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility section of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

Contact Information
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- city/state/zip
- primary phone
- secondary phone
- e-mail

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Payment SCHEDULE
$1,000 per person deposit upon application. Balance due upon receipt of invoice, 90 days before departure. Acceptable forms of payment for the deposit are personal check, wire transfer, Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final payment may be made by credit card, check, or wire transfer. If final payment is not received by 60 days prior to departure, your space is subject to cancellation. If you are making a reservation within 90 days of the trip’s departure, full payment will be required upon confirmation.

By registering for a Yale Educational Travel program, the participant agrees to the Responsibility Statement and Liability Disclaimer and the Terms and Conditions herein and that the participant acknowledges that he/she has carefully read and fully understands and accepts the Terms and Conditions for this program, detailed here: http://www.academic-travel.com/yet-tcs/.