



Prehistoric Cave Art of Spain & France

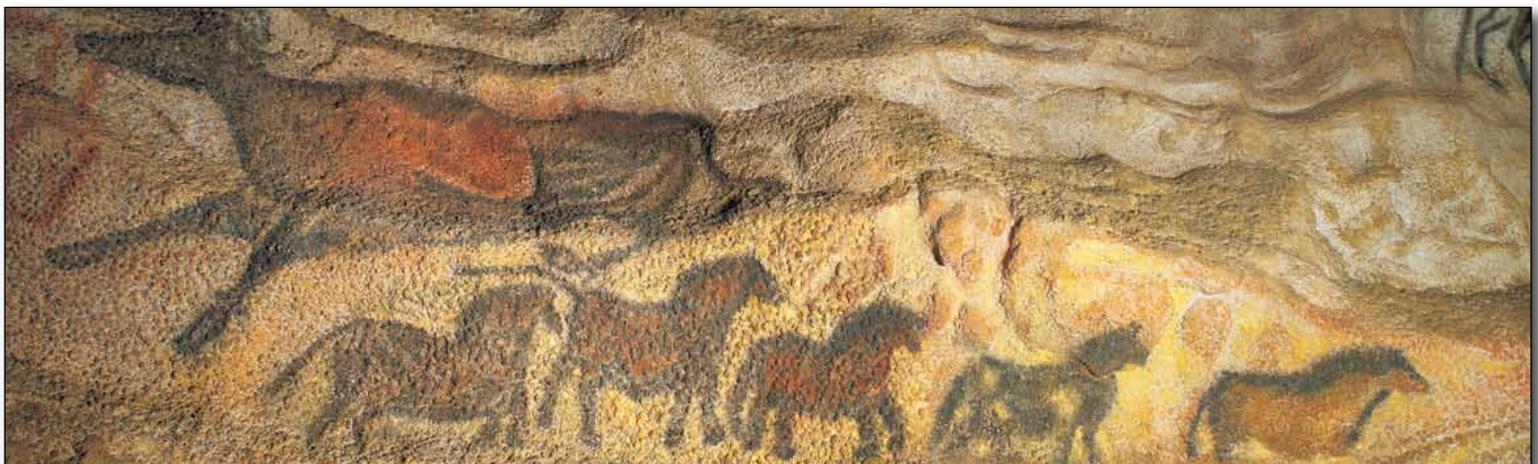
September 19 - October 1, 2018 (13 Days) with prehistorian Paul Bahn



Highlights

- Investigate southwestern Europe's most extraordinary prehistoric caves, including **Lascaux IV**, a new, exact reproduction of one of the most remarkable prehistoric sites ever discovered; **Altamira II**, a precise replica of the original that is often called the "Sistine Chapel of Prehistoric Art;" **Atapuerca**, the most significant early human site in western Europe; **Las Monedas Cave** and **Cueva del Castillo**, where 180 animal likenesses were painted some 12,000-14,000 years ago; **Cognac**, which features paintings of extinct megaloceros and mammoth; **Pech Merle**, known for its "negative handprints;" and others.
- Travel with **world-renowned archaeological author Paul Bahn**, a gifted and popular lecturer who regularly leads tours to study the prehistory of Spain and France, including this program. Dr. Bahn will enhance your understanding of the sites with lectures and informal discussions.
- Tour archaeological and ethnographic museums with superb exhibits of prehistoric artifacts, including the **Museum of Human Evolution** in Burgos, **Altamira Museum**, **Museum of Les Eyzies**, and the **Musée d'Aquitaine**; plus the modern art collections of Bilbao's **Guggenheim Museum**.
- Explore charming villages and cities, including **Santillana del Mar** and **San Sebastian**.
- Enjoy **excellent accommodations** in fine hotels and charming inns, as well as **fine wine and cuisine**.

"Paul conveyed a great deal of information in an interesting way. He was friendly, very patient and happily answered questions from our group." - James, Nevada



Itinerary

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

Wednesday & Thursday, September 19 & 20, 2018 ~ HOME / BILBAO, Spain / SANTILLANA DEL MAR

Depart home on independent flights to **Bilbao**, Spain. Arriving in the morning or early afternoon on September 20th, take a group transfer to the charming medieval town of **Santillana del Mar**. One of Europe's most perfectly preserved medieval villages, Santillana del Mar retains a romantic ambiance with its 14th- through 16th-century towers punctuating the skyline. After checking in at our hotel, take a walking tour of the village, noting its roots from the early Middle Ages when the first dwellings arose in the shadow of the Romanesque monastery of Santa Juliana. Gather for a welcome dinner at our hotel this evening. *Overnight at Parador de Santillana for two nights.* (day 2: D)

Friday, September 21 ~ SANTILLANA DEL MAR / ALTAMIRA II / PUENTE VIESGO CAVES

Today is devoted to visiting caves that are celebrated for their ancient rock art. This morning we visit **Altamira II**, an exact replica of Altamira (the "Sistine Chapel of Prehistoric Art"), decorated with vivid depictions of bison and other animals dating back 15,000 years, a testament to the artists' skill in using rock formations to accentuate perspective. We also visit the **Altamira Museum**, with its highly informative exhibits on Cantabrian prehistory and cave art. This afternoon, we depart for the lush Pas Valley, home to the village of **Puente Viesgo**, the "Prehistoric Capital of Cantabria." We explore **Las Monedas Caves** and the **Cueva del Castillo**, where 180 images of hinds, horses, bison, deer, goats, aurochs, canids, and mammoth dating back 12,000-14,000 years cavort on the walls. We return to Santillana del Mar for dinner on our own. (B,L)

Saturday, September 22 ~ SANTILLANA DEL MAR / BILBAO

On our return to Bilbao, we drive through the dramatic Carranza Gorges to visit the small **Covalanas Cave**, where some of the prehistoric drawings are rendered in a little-used technique known as "the inkpad," in which lines are created from dots of red pigment. This afternoon is devoted to Bilbao's spectacular **Guggenheim Museum**, Frank O. Gehry's architectural masterpiece. This breathtaking modern structure consists of 19 galleries clustered around a central atrium that soars skyward for 165 feet, beautifully illuminated by natural light. The titanium roof is a unique, twisting, curving, metallic sculpture that integrates the city's industrial waterfront with the nearby historic and business districts. *Overnight at the Gran Hotel Domine for two nights.* (B,D)

Sunday, September 23 ~ BILBAO / ATAPUERCA / BURGOS / BILBAO

After breakfast this morning, we visit the caves of **Atapuerca**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, which have provided the earliest and most abundant evidence of humankind in Europe. Continue on to Burgos, where we will have time for lunch and a brief visit to **Burgos Cathedral** before we explore the impressive **Museum of Human Evolution**. This evening is at leisure in Bilbao. (B,L)

Monday, September 24 ~ BILBAO / SAN SEBASTIAN / BORDEAUX, France

We depart Spain for France this morning, stopping along the way in the charming city of **San Sebastian** for some free time. After a leisurely independent lunch, we will continue to **Bordeaux**, well-known for its wine industry, which attributes its "Golden Age" to the 18th century when far-sighted city



Above, a bison, Altamira II. Below, a doe, Altamira II. Bottom, the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao.



fathers redesigned its urban center to make it the classical masterpiece we know today. Its old district is one of the largest protected architectural neighborhoods in all of France, which we will explore on a walking tour. *Overnight at the Hotel Burdigala.* (B)

Tuesday, September 25 ~ BORDEAUX / LES EYZIES-DE-TAYAC

This morning we visit the **Musée d'Aquitaine**, a museum of history and archaeology exhibiting prehistoric to present-day artifacts of the Aquitaine region, including the Ice Age bas-relief of the Venus of Laussel, one of the earliest and most famous images of women in prehistory. After free time for lunch in Bordeaux, we will visit the prehistoric cave of **Pair-non-Pair**, known for its animal engravings and fossilized animal bones, and then continue on to Les Eyzies. *Overnight at Hotel Le Cro-Magnon for four nights.* (B,D)

Wednesday, September 26 ~ LES EYZIES / THE PÉRIGORD REGION

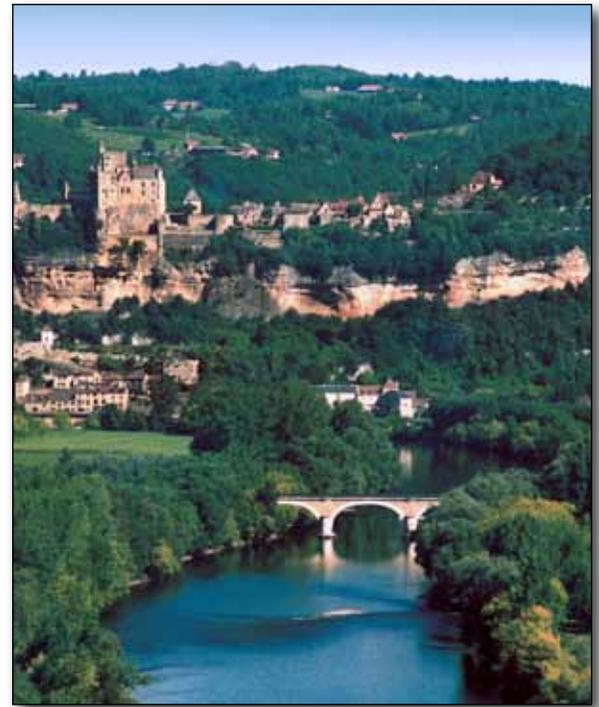
The Périgord Region in the southwest of France is Europe's most important prehistoric region. Its terrain, crisscrossed by gentle rivers flowing amidst extraordinary limestone formations, offered numerous shelters and caves for our early ancestors. Through expressive cave paintings, tools, and excavated remains, witness evidence of human existence and cultural evolution. Begin with a visit to the **Museum of Les Eyzies**, exhibiting artifacts from several millennia of prehistory, and then explore the shelter of **Cap Blanc**, which features a sculpted frieze of life-size horses. After lunch at leisure in Les Eyzies, visit the cave of **Font-de-Gaume**, featuring some 230 paintings and engravings, and then return to Les Eyzies for an evening at leisure. (B)

Thursday, September 27 ~ THE PÉRIGORD REGION

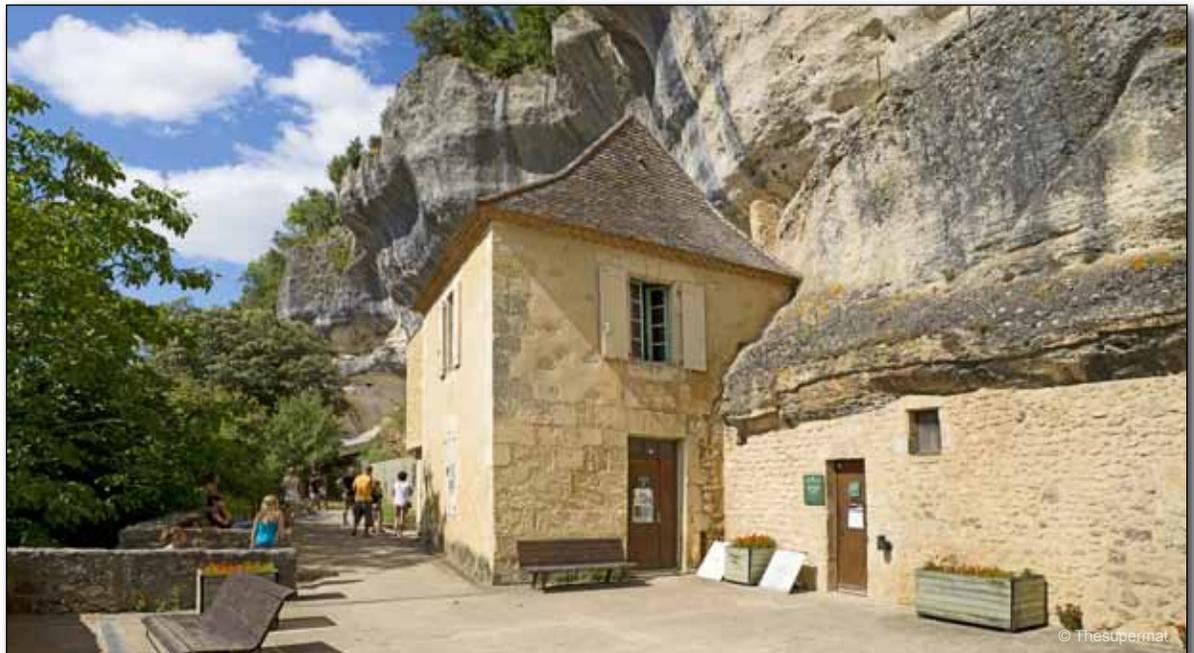
Begin the day with a drive to the prehistoric cave of **Cougnac**, known for its paintings of extinct megaloceros and mammoth. After lunch on your own in Sarlat, we drive along country roads to the prehistoric cave of **Rouffignac**. Explore its galleries onboard a train, admiring the numerous engravings of mammoth, rhinoceros, horse, bison, and mountain goat represented on its walls. On our way back to Les Eyzies, we stop at the site of **Abri Pataud**, where extensive digging in the early 1960s revealed astonishing details of the life of the Cro-Magnons. (B,D)

Friday, September 28 ~ THE PÉRIGORD REGION

Our day starts with a visit to **Lascaux IV**, the newest replica of one of Europe's most significant prehistoric sites, famous for the profusion of high-quality and multi-colored animal paintings on its walls. It is the most complete replica to date, representing nearly all of the original cave's paintings, and includes an interactive exhibit. Continue on to **Le Thot**, a museum and animal park of living species similar to those that occupied this region during the Upper Paleolithic, such as reindeer, European bison, aurochs, Przewalski horses, ibex, and red and fallow deer. End the day with a visit to **Lascaux II**, an earlier exact replica of the famous cave, where we will have more time to study the many figures in some detail. Return to Les Eyzies for an evening at leisure. (B)



Above, the Dordogne Valley. Below a prehistoric deer painting. Bottom, the entrance to Abri Pataud.



Saturday, September 29 ~ LES EYZIES / TOULOUSE

Depart Les Eyzies after breakfast and visit the cave of **Pech Merle**, particularly known for prehistoric paintings of mammoth and horse, as well as “negative hand prints.” After lunch in the town of Vers we continue on to **Toulouse**, for a walking tour and the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure. *Overnight at the Hotel Crowne Plaza for two nights.* (B,L)

Sunday, September 30 ~ TOULOUSE / NIAUX

Visit the outstanding cave of **Niaux**, perched high above the river and comprising a vast network of galleries that stretch over a mile. The exquisite paintings within represent bison, horse, and ibex. We enjoy a light lunch nearby. Gather this evening for our farewell dinner. (B,L,D)

Monday, October 1 ~ TOULOUSE / HOME

Transfer this morning to the Toulouse airport for flights home. (B)



Negative hand print, Pech Merle.

About the Archaeological Institute of America & AIA Tours

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer and Host



Dr. Paul G. Bahn is a leading archaeological writer, translator, and broadcaster in the field of archaeology. He is a Contributing Editor of the AIA's *Archaeology* magazine, and his article "Cloning Altamira" (*Archaeology*, March/April 2001) focused on the Altamira II complex and museum that we visit on this program. Dr. Bahn has written extensively on prehistoric art, including the books *Images of the Ice Age*, *The First Artists*, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Prehistoric Art*, and *Cave Art: A Guide to the Decorated Ice Age Caves of Europe*. He has also authored and/or edited many books on more general archaeological subjects, bringing a broad perspective to understanding the sites and museums that we will visit. Such titles include *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Archaeology*; *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*; *The Penguin Archaeology Guide*; *The Cambridge World Prehistory*; and *Archaeology: The Whole Story*.

Born in Kingston-upon-Hull, Britain, he holds a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, a Corresponding Member of the AIA, and a member of numerous international professional organizations, including the Prehistoric Society and the Société Préhistorique Française. Dr. Bahn has been involved in bringing the field of archaeology to television in various capacities. He was an advisor in the Dordogne and Pyrenees on the BBC production of *The Making of Mankind*, and a consultant on a segment of WGBH's Nova trilogy *Human Origins*, filmed in France. His research and lecturing on archaeological study tours have taken him to important archaeological sites around the world in Europe, North America, Africa, and Polynesia. He is a gifted and popular lecturer who regularly leads AIA tours to study the prehistory of Spain and France. Dr. Bahn's broad expertise in the area of prehistoric art, combined with fluency in French and a deep regard for the regions we will visit, uniquely qualify him as a lecturer *par excellence*.



What to Expect

All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. Participants who are not able to walk unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour unless accompanied by a companion who will be available to assist you at all times. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not the program is appropriate for you. VISITS TO THE CAVES AND OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES NECESSITATE WALKING QUICKLY AND CLIMBING UNASSISTED, WITHOUT HANDRAILS, SOMETIMES OVER STEEP OR SLIPPERY TERRAIN AND IN DARK OR DIMLY LIT SPACES. Weather in Spain and France in late September is generally pleasant, with average daytime temperatures ranging from the 50s to 70s F. Cave temperatures average 55° F and humidity levels reach 95%. Please note that no photography is allowed inside the caves. Detailed pre-departure information will be sent to participants.

Air Arrangements

International airfare from home to Bilbao, Spain, and returning from Toulouse, France, is not included. Complimentary transfers are provided for those arriving on Sept. 20th and departing on October 1st (see "Prices Include" for details). Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should contact your preferred Travel Agent or airline to book your flights. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

Accommodations

We have carefully selected our first-class hotels and inns for their charm, comfort, and location. Our accommodations include two nights at the lovely *Parador de Santillana*, and four nights at the *Hotel Le Cro-Magnon*, ideally located in the charming village of Les Eyzies-de-Tayac.

**For questions, or to make a reservation,
please contact us:**



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Tour Prices (Per Person)

DOUBLE Occupancy (15-20 participants)	\$7,645
DOUBLE Occupancy (10-14 participants)	\$8,395
SINGLE Supplement (limited availability)	\$1,105

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required.
With fewer than 10 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.

Prices Include:

- Leadership of AIA lecturer and host Paul Bahn;
- A copy of Paul Bahn's *Cave Art* guidebook;
- Eleven nights' accommodations as outlined in the itinerary;
- Meals as noted in the itinerary, including house wine with dinners;
- Group arrival transfer on Sept 20th (flights should arrive by early afternoon);
- Individual departure taxi transfers on October 1st;
- All entrance fees to sites included in the itinerary;
- Surface transportation in air-conditioned motor coach with bottled water provided;
- Professional, English-speaking Tour Manager/Guide throughout;
- Local taxes and service charges;
- All gratuities to drivers, waiters, and porters;
- Gratuities to the Tour Manager/Guide;
- Handling of two pieces of checked luggage per person;
- Practical and cultural information, suggested reading guide, name badge, passport wallet, and luggage tags.

PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE: Any airfare; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; alcoholic beverages (except as indicated above); excess baggage charges; personal and baggage insurance; any activities not specified in the itinerary; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, medical expenses, and room service.

PASSENGER CANCELLATION FEES: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least one hundred twenty one (121) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) per person. Cancellations received between one hundred twenty (120) and ninety one (91) days prior to departure are subject to a fee equal to fifty percent (50%) of the tour cost. Cancellations received ninety (90) days or less prior to departure are subject to a penalty of 100% of the tour cost. *You are strongly encouraged to obtain trip cancellation insurance (an application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit).*

NOTE: *Prices, lecturer, and itinerary are subject to change. Entrance to the caves can be subject to restrictions.* Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you are unable to or choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to EOS-Passenger Account-AIA Prehistory9/18. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure and must be by personal check only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request, and can be viewed online at www.aiatours.org.