



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Chauvet

Decorated Caves of the Pyrenees & the Rhone Valley

April 19-29, 2018 (11 days) with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall

“Being in the presence of the art was a once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon.”

- Sandra, New York

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Discover with acclaimed paleoanthropologist and popular trip leader Ian Tattersall a collection of magnificent but largely unheralded examples of Ice Age art. Admire unusual, elegant bas-relief animal images in Basque caves, a profusion of hand prints at Gargas, and the famous panels of line-drawn and subtly shaded bison, horse, and ibex at Niaux. The trip concludes with a visit to the newly-opened Chauvet cave replica at Vallon-Pont-d'Arc, which expertly re-creates the earliest, and perhaps most impressive, of the many masterpieces of Ice Age art dated to some 35,000 years ago. Enjoy fine food and delightful accommodations while an expert trip manager handles all the logistics.

ITINERARY

(B)= Breakfast, (L)= Lunch, (D)= Dinner

Thursday, April 19, 2018: HOME | BILBAO, SPAIN

Depart home on independent flights to Bilbao, Spain.

Friday, April 20: BILBAO

Transfer from the Bilbao airport to the *Gran Hotel Domine*, situated in the heart of this thriving city. This afternoon, admire both the architecture and the permanent collection of the spectacular Guggenheim Museum during a guided tour. Gather later at the hotel for a welcome drink and dinner. *Overnight at the Gran Hotel Domine for two nights. (D)*

"We explored a fresh and off-the-beaten-track subject, learned from an excellent guide, enjoyed seeing the magnificent countryside, ate very good food, met some interesting fellow travelers, and stayed in some great hotels. It doesn't get better!"

- Carol, Michigan

Saturday, April 21: BILBAO | COVALANAS | RAMALES | EL PENDO | BILBAO

After breakfast, drive to Covalanas cave with its extraordinary collection of animal images. After an independent lunch in nearby Ramales, continue to El Pendo cave with its nearly nine-meter-long panel of painted figures. Dinner is at leisure in Bilbao. (B)

Sunday, April 22: BILBAO | EKAINBERRI | SAN SEBASTIAN | AINHOA, FRANCE

Check out of our hotel and head northeast towards France, stopping first at the Ekainberri replica and its famous panels of horses, the originals dating from the Magdalenian period. Continue to the elegant Basque city of San Sebastian, situated on the Bay of Biscay. Enjoy a stroll through the town and savor an independent lunch before moving on to Ainhoa. Gather in the evening for dinner. *Overnight at the Hotel Ithurria for two nights. (B,D)*



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Cover, Charcoal drawings from Chauvet cave. Above, the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao. Below, a painting from Covalanas cave, Spain.



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Monday, April 23: AINHOA | ISTURITZ AND OXOCELHAYA | ESPELETTE | AINHOA

This morning, visit the caves of Isturitz and Oxocelhaya with their bas-relief sculptures and concretions. Stop for an independent lunch in the small town of Espelette, famous for its cultivation of spicy red peppers, before returning to our hotel in Ainhoa. The balance of the day is at leisure. (B)

Tuesday, April 24: AINHOA | GARGAS | TARASCON-SUR-ARIÈGE

Check out of our hotel and drive to Gargas cave, one of the finest in the Pyrenees and known for its collection of more than 200 stenciled hand prints, many of which are mysteriously incomplete. After a group lunch in Gargas, drive to *Le Manoir d'Agnes*, a 200-year-old French chateau in Tarascon-sur-Ariège. Gather for dinner in the restaurant next to our hotel. *Overnight at Le Manoir d'Agnes for three nights.* (B,L,D)

"The countryside was gorgeous, and the cave art amazing! I very much enjoyed having personal time to browse and take photos. The whole experience exceed my expectations!"

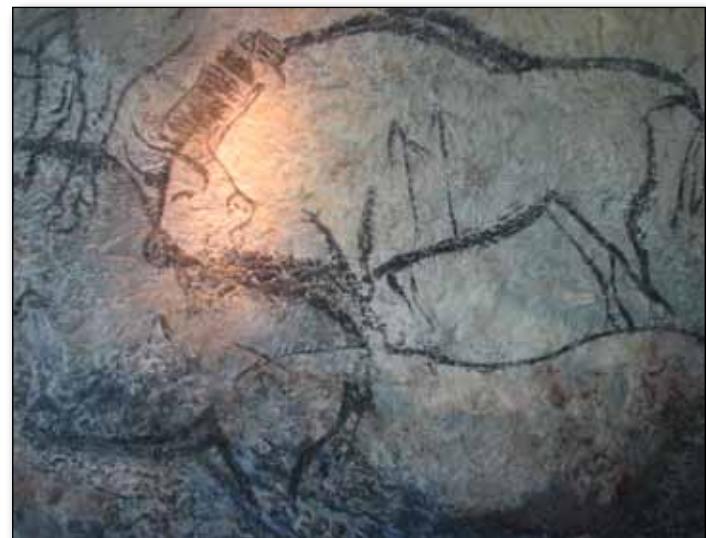
- Jackie, California

Wednesday, April 25: TARASCON-SUR-ARIÈGE | NIAUX | LA VACHE | TARASCON SUR-ARIÈGE

This morning, drive a short distance to the cave of Niaux, regarded as one of the most impressive in Europe for its spectacular and well-preserved wall paintings from 14,000 years ago, most of which are found in its "Salon Noir," situated some 800 meters from the cave entrance. After a group lunch in the village of Niaux, visit the small cave of La Vache, plausibly where the Niaux artists lived, and known as one of the Pyrenees' richest Magdalenian sites in terms of artifacts and engravings on bone and stone plaques, including representations of bear, lion, salmon, and more. Return to Tarascon-sur-Ariège for an evening at leisure. (B,L)

Thursday, April 26: TARASCON-SUR-ARIÈGE | BÉDEILHAC | PARC DE LA PRÉHISTOIRE | TARASCON-SUR-ARIÈGE

After breakfast, visit Bédeilhac cave, famous for its vast entrance (used as an aircraft maintenance facility in World War II), and which was decorated by Magdalenian hunters. This afternoon, following a group lunch, visit the Parc de la Préhistoire for an overview of the area's prehistory through its museum and numerous reconstructions and demonstrations. Return to Tarascon-sur-Ariège for an evening at leisure. (B,L)



Paintings of bison (above) and an ibex (below) from the Salon Noir of Niaux cave. Bottom, the Ekainberri panel of horses, Spain.



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Friday, April 27: TARASCON-SUR-ARIÈGE | ARAGO | TAUTAVEL | MONTPELLIER

Check out of our hotel and drive to Arago cave, situated just outside the village of Tautavel and famous for the discovery of "Tautavel Man," some of the most significant hominid remains ever found in Europe. After an independent lunch and, time permitting, a quick tasting of the local wine, visit the small but impressive museum in Tautavel before driving on to Montpellier. Dinner this evening is at leisure. *Overnight at the Hotel Pullman Montpellier Centre.* (B)

"The sites we visited were exceptional and well selected to show the great varieties of artistic expression."

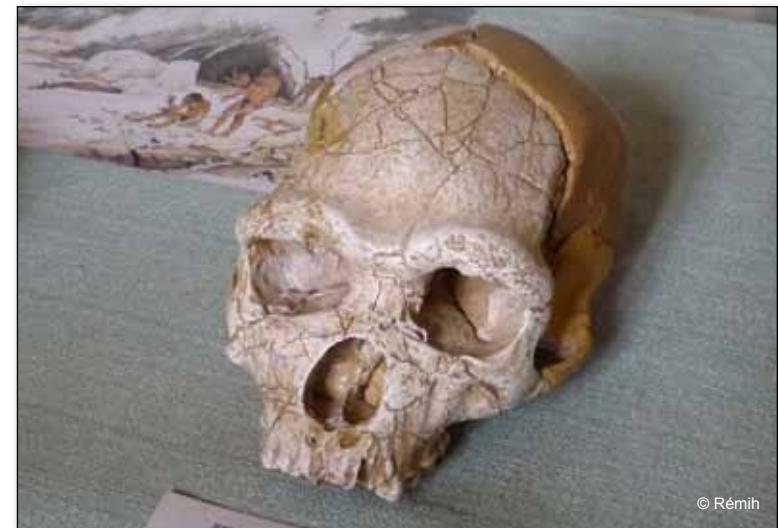
- Michael, Texas

Saturday, April 28: MONTPELLIER | VALLON-PONT-D'ARC CAVERN | LYON

After checking out of our hotel, drive north to what may be the highlight of the journey: the recently opened and spectacular replica of Chauvet cave, Pont-d'Arc Cavern, including a reproduction of its delicately shaded horses. Chauvet is one of the most famous decorated caves in the world and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. After an independent lunch in the village, drive to Lyon. Gather together for a farewell dinner this evening. *Overnight at Le Royal Hotel Lyon.* (B,D)

Sunday, April 29: LYON | HOME

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



Above, Tautavel Man is a proposed subspecies of the hominid *Homo erectus*, and its 450,000-year-old fossil remains were discovered in the Arago Cave in Tautavel, France. Below, a charcoal drawing from Chauvet cave, France.

"Ian Tattersall was amazing in every way. Loved that we saw so many caves." - Joy, New York



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA
LECTURER & HOST



Ian Tattersall, American Museum of Natural History curator emeritus, is a renowned expert on physical anthropology and human evolution. He has lectured to acclaim on numerous expeditions to Spain, France, and throughout the world.

Trained in geology as well as in archaeology and anthropology, his field research on living primates and his fossil collecting has taken him around the globe. Dr. Tattersall co-curated the Museum's Spitzer Hall of Human Origins and has written many books on the origins of human creativity, including *Masters of the Planet*; *Becoming Human: Evolution and Human Uniqueness*; *The Strange Case of the Rickety Cossack*, and *Other Cautionary Tales from Human Evolution*; and the recently published *A Natural History of Wine* (with Rob DeSalle).

"I thought Ian gave wonderful introductions to each venue... He is a wealth of knowledge and he did an excellent job of communicating with each of us about the upcoming cave."

- Charles, California



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What to Expect: This program involves extensive walking, often on uneven terrain or up and down stairs that may be steep and without handrails. 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 April is generally pleasant, with average daytime temperatures ranging from the 50s to mid 60s F. Cave temperatures average 55° F and humidity levels reach 95%. Please note that no photography is allowed inside the caves. *Complete pre-departure details and what to pack will be sent to participants.*

Air Arrangements & Transfers: Airfare from home to Bilbao, Spain, and returning from Lyon, France, is **not** included. Group transfers in Bilbao on arrival and in Lyon on departure are included (times to be determined). Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights from/to home. 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.*

The AIA and the AIA Tours Program

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.

**For questions and to make a reservation please
contact us:**



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Tour Prices (Per Person)

Double Occupancy (15 to 20 participants)	\$7,545
Double Occupancy (10 to 14 participants)	\$8,245
Single Supplement.....	\$945

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability).

With fewer than 10 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.

Prices Include:

- Leadership of AIA lecturer and host Ian Tattersall;
- Nine nights' accommodations as outlined in the itinerary;
- Meals as noted in the itinerary, including house wine with dinners;
- Group arrival transfers on April 20th (flights should arrive no later than 12:00 PM);
- Group departure transfer on April 29th;
- 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;
- Gratuities to the Tour Manager/Guide, drivers, waiters, and porters;
- 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 ninety (90) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) per person. Cancellations received between sixty (60) and eighty nine (89) days prior to departure are subject to a penalty of 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received fifty nine (59) days or less prior to departure are subject to a penalty of 100% of the tour cost. *For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. An application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.*

Note: 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, itinerary and leader are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you 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 DecoratedCaves4/18. 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.