



A PROGRAM OF

The Association of Former Students

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## Howdy, Ags!

Join this small group of travelers for a unique opportunity to experience the authentic character of France's historic villages in the captivating southwestern *département* of Dordogne. Immerse yourself in the rich local culture and rhythms of daily life in this charming region, and explore the history of early humans who painted their stories on its cave walls, the largest concentration of prehistoric art in the world.

Experience the heart of Dordogne, a hidden treasure where all of France's provincial delights have been distilled into one of Europe's most beautiful and intact medieval villages, Sarlat-la-Canéda. Our carefully designed itinerary and expert-guided excursions explore five impressive UNESCO World Heritage sites: the dramatic cliffside monastic village of Rocamadour, the important archaeological sites of L'Abri du Cap-Blanc, Rouffignac Cave and Les-Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil and the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine. Visit the incredible, newly opened Lascaux IV to appreciate one of humankind's earliest art creations in the form of cave paintings. Exclusively arranged, enriching presentations and the VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM provide personal perspectives on daily life in the villages of Dordogne.

Your "home" in the village will be the family-owned Plaza Madeleine Hôtel, a restored 19<sup>th</sup>-century townhouse ideally located in medieval Sarlat-la-Canéda. This delightful *hôtel de charme* features a provincial ambiance with modern accommodations and amenities, and is known for the warm hospitality of its staff. In addition to the included meals in the hotel, dine on regional specialties while enjoying traditional three-course dinners in specially selected French bistros nestled in the quaint village of Sarlat.

VILLAGE LIFE® IN DORDOGNE offers an enchanting educational travel experience, a great value—and you unpack only once! It is an exceedingly popular program,

so I encourage you to book now while space and early booking savings are available.

Gig 'em!

Jermifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D. Director of Travel Programs Traveling Aggies

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No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by our tour supplier.

Cover photo: Visit the Dordogne River Valley, a rural idyll replete with hilltop castles and quaint villages.



In medieval Dordogne, street lamps along ancient lanes are one of the few concessions to modernity.

# VILLAGE LIFE®

## DORDOGNE



Dordogne Coat of Arms

Experience firsthand the true character and traditions of Dordogne during this comprehensive, small group travel program. It features the beautiful *départements* and countryside of southwestern France, the medieval village of Sarlat-la-Canéda within the oak-forested Périgord Noir and the world's largest collection of magnificent prehistoric art. Enjoy an enriching travel experience like no other; become immersed in the rhythm of daily life in Dordogne by interacting with local people; explore the history, culture, art,

language and cuisine—and unpack just once! This comprehensive program is one of the popular VILLAGE LIFE® series, an intimate travel experience at just the right pace.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS are specially arranged for this custom-designed itinerary:

- Enjoy an authentic experience in delightful Sarlat-la-Canéda, a quintessential provincial French village of beautifully preserved medieval architecture.
- Immerse yourself in a carefully planned, balanced itinerary of included guided historical and cultural excursions and time on your own to discover and observe the heart of medieval Sarlat and experience daily village life.
- Engage with *dordognais* (local residents) during the VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM where they will share candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in a medieval village.
- Peruse Sarlat's traditional, twice-weekly, outdoor market, located just a short walk from your hotel.
- Sample the traditional cuisine of France's Aquitaine region during specially arranged meals in local bistros and an exclusive wine and local cheese tasting in an *épicerie gourmet*.
- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of L'Abri du Cap-Blanc, where prehistoric man once made his home, and the impressive cave friezes of Lascaux IV, an exact replica of Lascaux, estimated to have been painted 17,300 years ago.
- See the world's premier collection of paleolithic engravings and sculpture at The National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil.
- ◆ Enjoy a private cruise in an authentic 19<sup>th</sup>-century *gabare* (barge) and admire the historic châteaux and villages along the spectacular, cliff-lined Dordogne River.
- Experience a specially arranged, private performance of traditional 19th-century Périgord Noir folk music and dance.
- ◆ Hear it from the Experts! Experienced, English-speaking *dordognais* guides will accompany you throughout the program and share their expertise of historical, cultural and contemporary Dordogne. A local expert will lecture on preserving the medieval architecture in Sarlat.
- ◆ Learn key phrases in *la langue française* (the French language) to make your interactions with local residents all the more enjoyable.



Sail the bucolic Dordogne River aboard a traditional  $19^{th}$ -century wooden gabare, the typical mode of transportation of the Périgord region for more than 150 years.

## ITINERARY

### Day

- ◆ BORDEAUX® Pre-Program Option
- 1 Depart the U.S.
- 2 Bordeaux, France/ Sarlat-la-Canéda
  - Arrive in Bordeaux, then transfer to Sarlat.
  - Check into Plaza Madeleine Hôtel.
- 3 SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA
  - Walking tour of medieval Sarlat.
     Cultural Enrichment:
  - Afternoon at leisure to peruse the village market of Sarlat.
- 4 ROCAMADOUR®/SOUILLAC
  - ◆ Tour of 13th-century Rocamadour.
  - Visit to quaint Souillac.
- 5 Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil®/ L'Abri du Cap-Blanc®
  - Visit to the Jardins d'Eyrignac.

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:** 

- Tour of National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies.
- View cave friezes of L'Abri du Cap-Blanc.
- ◆ Sarlat VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM.
- LASCAUX IV/ST-AMAND-DE-COLY
  - Visit to St-Amand-de-Coly.
  - Cultural Enrichments:

     View prehistoric cave art of Lascaux.
  - Lecture on the preservation of medieval architecture in Sarlat.
  - Sample local wines and cheeses.
- 7 Rouffignac<sup>©</sup>/La Madeleine<sup>©</sup>
  - ◆ Tour of prehistoric Rouffignac cave.
  - Excursion to the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine.
  - Cultural Enrichments:
     Morning at leisure to enjoy individual pursuits in Sarlat such as their quaint twice-weekly market.
  - Private evening folk music performance and dance.
- 8 BEYNAC/DOMME
  - Tour of 12<sup>th</sup>-century Château de Beynac.
  - Walking tour of historic Domme.
  - CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:
  - Cruise in a typical gabare on the bucolic Dordogne River.
- 9 SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA/BORDEAUX/ Return to the U.S.



## Sarlat-la-Canéda

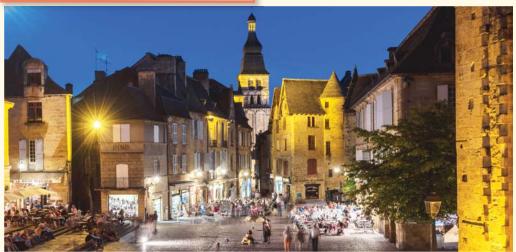
Author Henry Miller called Sarlat "the Frenchman's paradise."

Your charming "village home" is in the pre-French Revolutionary capital of Périgord Noir, a lushly forested corner of the Aquitaine region, ideally located between the Dordogne and Vézère Rivers. It is a bon vivant's dream, renowned for truffles, wild mushrooms, strawberries, walnuts and duck, and close enough to Bordeaux to procure the finest wines directly from vintners' cellars.

Sarlat has one of the greatest concentrations of medieval, Renaissance and 17th-century façades in Europe. Step back in time as you meander through narrow cobblestone streets illuminated by gas lamps and lined with traditional Renaissance-style stone houses crowned with pepperpot chimneys. The heart of Sarlat is the Place de la Liberté, where every Wednesday and Saturday one of France's most storied markets is held, a tradition dating from the Middle Ages.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: During the exclusive VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM, *dordognais* will discuss contemporary life in Dordogne.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Attend the private, specially arranged presentation by a local expert on preserving the medieval architecture of Sarlat.



Savor the delights of traditional French cuisine in the village of Sarlat, where regional specialties are prepared from the freshest ingredients from the Sarlat Market, one of the best in France.



Cultural Enrichment: Enjoy a private, traditional, 19<sup>th</sup>-century French folk music and dance performance.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Sample regional cheese and wine in a specialty *épicerie*.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Savor two specially arranged dinners, each in an authentic French bistro in Sarlat.

## Rocamadour/Souillac

Built on the face of a sheer 400-foot cliff, the UNESCO World Heritage-designated village of Rocamadour has one of the most dramatic settings of any village in the world. During the Middle Ages, pilgrims flocked here from across Europe to perform penance by ascending the 216 steps of *le Grand Escalier* (the Grand Stairway) on their knees to pay homage to the Virgin Mary and seek miracles from St. Amadour by visiting his crypt. Embedded in the cliff above the doorway to the Chapelle de Notre Dame is a sword said to be that of the heroic knight Roland.

Nearby, visit the quaint town of Souillac and its 12th-century Abbaye Sainte-Marie, a treasury of Romanesque statuary and carvings depicting biblical and legendary scenes.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Savor a lunch of regional specialties in a village restaurant.

## Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil

Les Eyzies is France's capital of prehistoric humanity, where unprecedented fossils of Early Modern Man have been discovered. Approximately 35,000 years old, these fossils are some of the earliest known evidence of human life in Europe. The National Museum of Prehistory, housed in a 13<sup>th</sup>-century castle, gives context to the area's cave paintings, fossils and early tools.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Guided tour of the National Museum of Prehistory.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Guided excursion to see L'Abri du Cap-Blanc's prehistoric cave friezes.



Experience Sarlat-la-Canéda's twice-weekly market, a medieval tradition in the heart of the village.

## Jardins d'Eyrignac

Designated a national monument by the French government, for more than 500 years the Eyrignac Manor has been the continuous family residence of 22 generations. On this 17<sup>th</sup>-century estate located just outside of Sarlat, view what many consider the finest *jardins* (gardens) in all of France. Originally of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century Italian design, the landscape was converted a century later to an English-style, sculpted, coniferous garden and has been immaculately maintained and enhanced throughout the years.

## Villages of the Périgord Noir

Carved beneath a cliff overlooking the picturesque Vézère River, the prehistoric troglodyte village and UNESCO World Heritage site of La Madeleine offers unique insight into the Magdalenian culture, which prevailed in southern Europe for over 60 centuries from 15,000 to 9000 B.C. This ancient settlement of approximately 20 dwellings once accommodated 100 residents at a time.



Rocamadour has beckoned travelers and pilgrims alike to its summit above a tributary of the Dordogne River.

## Plaza Madeleine Hôtel, Sarlat-la-Canéda

Enjoy the tranquil pace of VILLAGE LIFE® during your stay in the family-owned PLAZA MADELEINE HÔTEL, located just beyond the ancient walls of Sarlat-la-Canéda's medieval quarter, a mere five minute walk from the village center. A grand 19th-century townhouse, this hôtel de charme was recently renovated with tasteful French esprit contemporain.

Each of the 39 comfortable, air-conditioned guest rooms features two twin beds or one queen bed with private bathroom, individual climate control, satellite television, direct dial telephone, Wi-Fi access, safe, minibar and hair dryer.

The hotel dining room, where continental breakfast is prepared daily

featuring fresh baked breads, pastries and charcuterie, is reserved for the exclusive use of hotel guests. There is a brasserie pub with lounge and private terrace, a *petit* lounge with computer facilities and wireless Internet access, a heated outdoor swimming pool, solarium and spa with jacuzzi and sauna. The dedicated hotel staff is pleased to provide attentive service.

Petit St-Amand-de-Coly is one of the most picturesque villages in Dordogne, its cobblestone lanes dominated by the fortified 13th-century abbey church, an unusual fusion of Romanesque and Gothic styles. Traces of the Hundred Years' War remain in the ramparts and towers of the fortress-like church and the nearby remnants of its abbey.

## Château de Beynac

Perched 500 feet above the Dordogne River and commanding a medieval village of golden stone houses tucked into the steep hillside is the fortified Château de Beynac, a masterpiece of medieval military engineering that was once a stronghold of Richard the Lionheart. Traverse the castle's elaborate series of surrounding stone walls, parapet walks, watchtowers and passageways to an impressive interior decorated with a magnificent 17<sup>th</sup>-century staircase and delicate 15<sup>th</sup>-century frescoes.

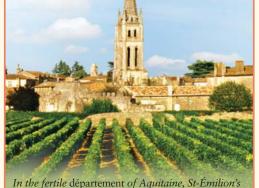
CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Enjoy a private cruise on the tranquil Dordogne River aboard a traditional 19<sup>th</sup>-century *gabare*, followed by a lunch of Périgord specialties in a local restaurant overlooking the river.

#### Domme

Among the "most beautiful villages" of France, Domme is an authentic medieval *bastide*, or fortified village, where entrance today is still gained through its original military ramparts, and graffiti etched by the Knights Templar in the 14<sup>th</sup> century is still distinguishable on the inner village walls. The beauty of the 13<sup>th</sup>- and 14<sup>th</sup>-century architecture of Domme is surpassed only by its exceptional views overlooking the Dordogne River.

## Splendors of Bordeaux St-Émilion and Médoc

Pre-Program Option Long distinguished as the wine capital of the world, France's verdant Bordeaux region has been producing, fermenting and bottling the grape since the eighth century. Tucked away in the heart of the rolling French countryside and endless vineyards, visit the charming and legendary village of St-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site, famous for the Merlot grape grown here that produces rich, full-bodied red wines. Visit the impressive medieval monuments of St-Émilion, including the Église Monolithe, one of the largest underground churches in Europe. Just north of Bordeaux in the Médoc region, experience the grand cru classé, Bordeaux's distinguished wine classification, at a château and enjoy a tasting of their exquisite wines. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe HÔTEL BURDIGALA, located in the heart of Bordeaux.



verdant landscape is devoted entirely to viticulture.
The Pre-Program Option is available at additional cost.
Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

## **Included Features**

### In Sarlat-la-Canéda

- Seven nights' comfortable accommodation in the Plaza Madeleine Hôtel.
- Private Welcome Reception in the hotel.
- Breakfast each morning, one lunch and two dinners in the hotel.
- Two dinners, each in a specially selected traditional French bistro featuring French country table d'hôte menus and regional specialties.
- Regional wine is served with each included dinner.

## Local Expert-Guided Excursions

- Architectural walking tour of Sarlat-la-Canéda.
- ◆ Full-day excursion featuring 13<sup>th</sup>-century Rocamadour, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the magnificent Romanesque sculptures in Souillac's Church of Sainte-Marie, including lunch.
- Visit to the lush, impeccably maintained 19th-century Jardins d'Eyrignac.
- ◆ Excursion to the impressive Rouffignac Cave, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Visit to the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine and the medieval village and fortified church of St-Amand-de-Coly.
- Tour of the medieval Château de Beynac.
- Walking tour of Domme, with spectacular views of the Dordogne River Valley.

## **Exclusive Cultural Enrichments**

- ◆ Excursions to the UNESCO World Heritage site of L'Abri du Cap-Blanc and the prehistoric cave art of Lascaux IV.
- Tour of the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil.
- ◆ Specially arranged VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM with local residents who will discuss contemporary daily life in provincial France's Dordogne département.
- A lecture on architectural preservation in Sarlat-la-Canéda by a local historian.
- Private, specially arranged gabare cruise along the Dordogne River, with lunch in the village of Beynac-et-Cazenac.
- Local wine and cheese tasting at a Sarlat épicerie gourmet.
- Specially arranged meals highlighting the distinctive flavors of the Dordogne region.
- Private 19th-century Périgord cultural folk performance.
- French language introduction.

## Enhanced Travel Services

- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose
- arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s). All excursions and visits, as outlined above,
- with experienced local guides. Gratuities to local guides and drivers on
- included excursions.
- Hospitality desk in the hotel.
- The services of an experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director throughout the program.
- ◆ Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.
- Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
- Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.



Marvel at the exquisite artistry and ingenuity of the prehistoric paintings in Lascaux IV.

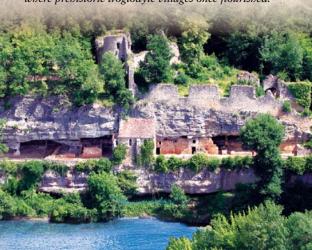
## **Prehistoric Art**

Dordogne has the greatest concentration of prehistoric art sites anywhere in the world. The region's limestone caves and rocky overhangs provided Ice Age man with not only shelter, but also a vast canvas for extraordinary cave paintings. In the two most well-known caves, Lascaux and Rouffignac, both UNESCO World Heritage sites, extinct aurochs, wild stallions and antelopes, painted between approximately 25,000 and 17,000 years ago, still prance, preen and gallop before your eyes. The original Lascaux cave has been closed to the public since 1963 for preservation purposes; however, Lascaux IV, an incredible exact replica opening in late 2016 allows the public to more authentically experience these fascinating cave paintings and provides a truer representation of the exuberant colors that have since faded in the original Lascaux itself.

The Rouffignac Cave offers up-close views of the deft drawings of extinct, prehistoric animals that cover the five-mile labyrinth of cavernous walls and ceilings, including the famous frieze of two bison about to engage each other in battle.

Near the village of Les Eyzies, visit the original Cro-Magnon rock shelter and UNESCO World Heritage site of L'Abri du Cap-Blanc, showcasing the rare, life-size frieze of horses and bison sculpted in limestone. A guided tour of the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies helps put this vast network of prehistoric art into context.

See well-preserved cliff dwellings along the Dordogne River where prehistoric troglodyte villages once flourished.





Visit the Château de Beynac, which soars dramatically above the Dordogne River Valley. Once a stronghold of Richard the Lionheart, it remained a highly prized strategic outpost for centuries.

LAND TARIFF excluding taxes\*

Per person, based on double occupancy

Early Booking Tariff\* through November 8, 2016

Tariff\* after November 8, 2016

\$3,695

\$3,995

Singles are available upon request for an additional \$700.\*

\*Taxes are an additional \$295 per person and are subject to change.

(VILLAGE LIFE) IN DORDOGNE RESERVATION FORM		
Send to: Traveling Aggies 505 George Bush Drive College Station, TX 77840		Please make my/our reservation(s):  Double occupancy (two twin beds).
(979) 845-7514 or (800) 633-7514 Fax: (979) 845-9263		Double occupancy (one queen bed).
		☐ Single accommodations.
Title Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport) Class Year		☐ I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my
Title Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport) Class Year		roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).
Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)		Please make my/our reservation(s):
City	State ZIP Code	Splendors of Bordeaux Pre-Program Option
		☐ Double at \$740 per person.
Telephone (Home)	(Mobile)	☐ Single at \$1,040 per person.
Email Address	(Business)	☐ I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my
Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s)	Tour No. 080-05/25/17-104	roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).
Program reservations require a deposit of \$600 per person plus \$200 per person Splendors of Bordeaux Pre-Program Option.  By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.		☐ I/We want you to book my/our air from
☐ Enclosed is my/our check(s) for \$ as deposit.  Make checks payable to 2017 Village Life® in Dordogne.		(fill in departure city) to and from Bordeaux, France, at additional cost to be advised.  **Table 1.1**  **Table 2.1**  **Table 3.1**  **Tabl
□ I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of \$ to: □ Visa □ MasterCard		☐ Economy Class
		☐ Upgraded Economy Class
Overl Museuko as		☐ Business Class
Card Number	Exp. Date	☐ First Class
Signature as it appears on credit card		<sup>‡</sup> Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.
All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by February 17, 2017.		☐ I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.



Admire the finest "English" gardens in France as you stroll through the enchanting grounds of Eyrignac Manor.

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rransportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

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If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Bagagae is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participanting in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders or third parties, or who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the t

constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.
LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without notice.
PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

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DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by November 8, 2016. In the event a "discounted" reservation must be cancelled, no "replacement" reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a \$200 (\$50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, \$600 (\$200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation frees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

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On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on

REGISTRATION: CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 76/ 666, OST#: TA 0905.

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or voidable.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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