



Trip description

The best of the Dordogne by bike

A cycling trip in the heart of the Dordogne to discover the different gems of the region between bastides, medieval towns, castles and prehistoric caves. A cycling holiday week in the heart of the South West!



Destination	France
Location	Dordogne / Périgord
Duration	8 days
Difficulty Level	Challenging
Validity	From April to October
Minimum age	14 years
Reference	DP0801

Type of stay
loop trip



Itinerary



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Our self guided cycling holiday in the Dordogne will totally immerse you in the heart of a region marked by history. Discover the exceptional

prehistoric sites of the Vézère valley called the Man's Valley such as the Cro-Magnon shelter, La Roque Saint-Christophe and the famous Lascaux cave. Then, you reach the medieval town of Sarlat and its renowned market where you will have the opportunity to taste delicious regional products (truffles, foie gras, nuts, mushrooms ...). Enjoy a second day in Sarlat to cycle to the valley of castles where you can exchange your bicycle for a canoe to explore the Dordogne river. You will be charmed by La Roque-Gageac, listed among the most beautiful villages of France, and the majestic châteaux de Beynac and Castelnaud, strategic places during the Hundred Years War. You change banks and cross the charming bastides of Belves and Beaumont-du-Périgord on your way, as well as the châteaux de Bannes and Lanquais or the Cadouin abbey listed as World Heritage by UNESCO. Finally, you cycle back to Bergerac, its harbour and its historic center where you enjoy a sweet and last evening.

Day 1

Arrival in Bergerac

You arrive in Bergerac, city of Art and History where you can meet the statue of Cyrano, famous hero of the play by French author Edmond de Rostand. Take the time to stroll through the heart of the Renaissance town with its charming alleys and half-timbered houses. Be sure to stop by the covered market to taste some delicious local products: foie gras, mushrooms, walnuts, duck confit, truffles ... Welcome to Dordogne!

Day 2

Bergerac - Le Bugue

Bike
52km

Altitude
±297m

You take a beautiful greenway along the Dordogne river to leave Bergerac. The peaceful shores of the river are only disturbed by the majestic gabarres (traditional boats) sailing there. From the charming town of Lalinde, small winding roads lead you to the top of the cingles de Limeuil et Trémolat from which you can admire the meanders of the river.

Then, you cycle to the medieval village of Limeuil, listed among the most beautiful villages of France and located at the confluence of the Dordogne and the Vézère rivers. You are now following the Vézère valley, known as the "Vallée de l'Homme" (Man's Valley) with its fifteen prehistoric sites listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Your day ends at Le Bugue, a charming little town built like an amphitheater on the side of a hill.

Day 3

Le Bugue - Montignac

Bike
38km

Altitude
±285m

You leave Le Bugue to reach Les Eyzies, a troglodyte village considered as "the world capital of prehistory", it was here that the Cro-Magnon Man was discovered. You can take a short break to visit the beautiful National Prehistory Museum housed in the former castle. You keep cycling along the Vézère river where you will come across many architectural treasures: the Maison Forte de Reignac, the Roque Saint-Christophe and the Château de Losse.

Then, you cross the medieval village of Saint-Léon-sur-Vézère, very typical village of the Black Périgord. You finally arrive in Montignac, a charming medieval town where you can visit one of the most precious gems of prehistory: the Lascaux Cave.

Day 4

Montignac - Sarlat

Bike
44km

Altitude
±708m

From Montignac you cycle on small country roads to the village of Saint-Genies, one of the most beautiful villages in the Black Périgord. You cross Salignac and its castle, then a few kilometers further, cycle by Eyrygnac gardens where we advise you to stop for a visit. Listed as a Historic Monument, these gardens are a green masterpiece combining rose gardens, ponds, flowers, grass carpets, fountains and plant sculptures on an area of 200 hectares.

You end your day cycling down to Sarlat, the capital of the Black Périgord. Labeled City of Art and History, the medieval city holds a large number of national heritage sites, a real open-air museum! Finally, do not miss the traditional market of Sarlat, one of the most famous in the region!

Day 5

Sarlat

Bike
43km

Altitude
±563m

Bike or canoe

Today, discover the most prestigious castles of the Dordogne by bike or canoe!

A beautiful loop tour takes you to the foot of the most beautiful castles of the region: the château de Monfort perched on its rocky spur, the château de Castelnaud and its museum of war in the Middle Ages and the château de Beynac, one of the best preserved in Dordogne. You also cycle through the villages of Domme and La Roque-Gageac, both listed among the most beautiful villages in France. On your way you will also have the opportunity to visit the majestic Marqueyssac Gardens overlooking the Dordogne valley.

For those who wish to admire the castles from a different perspective, you can exchange your bike for a canoe! You cycle from Sarlat to Vitrac (12km) where you leave your bike to get a canoe. You explore the Dordogne river while admiring its castles until Beynac where you leave the canoe (16km-3h). Then, we will drive you back to Vitrac in a mini-van where you collect your bike to cycle back to Sarlat (12km).

Day 6

Sarlat - Belvès

Bike
36km

Altitude
±550m

You leave Sarlat cycling on small mountain roads to reach the banks of the Dordogne river for a few kilometers. You arrive at the foot of the very beautiful village of Castelnaud-la-Chapelle. We advise you to stop to visit the heights of the village on foot as well as its imposing castle from which you will have a spectacular view over the Dordogne and the neighboring castles.

Then, you continue your ride and reach the château des Milandes, home of the famous American-born French entertainer, Josephine Baker. The castle is a surprising combination of Renaissance and Art-Deco style and pays tribute to the extraordinary destiny of its owner. Finally, you cycle up to Belvès, a medieval city nestled on the top of a hill.

Day 7

Belvès - Bergerac

Bike
58/63km

Altitude
±334m

You start your day cycling to Cadouin and its Cistercian abbey, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then, you continue your way to the bastide of Beaumont-du-Périgord where you can visit its impressive fortified church. On your way, you will also come across the magnificent château de Bannes perched proudly on its rocky spur.

A few kilometers further, we recommend a small detour to visit the château de Lanquais, nicknamed the "Unachieved Louvre of Périgord". Then, you reach the banks of the Dordogne to take the greenway which leads you to Bergerac for your last evening.

Day 8

Departure from Bergerac

After breakfast, enjoy a last stroll through the streets of Bergerac before leaving.

Accommodation

Category A

You will enjoy staying in these clean and cozy 2-3 Star hotels that give you a pleasant rest after your day of biking. Breakfast is included when you spend the night in these friendly and family-run hotels.



* Example of the type of accommodation

Category B

You will get a good night's sleep when you stay in these 3-star hotels or charming Bed and Breakfasts. All properties have been selected for their cleanliness, style and friendliness of the staff. A hearty breakfast is included!



* Example of the type of accommodation

Practical information

To get to departure point:

By plane: To Bergerac airport, flights from Lyon, Nice, Brussels and many cities in England (London, Liverpool, Manchester...). Then take a taxi to the city center. Other nearby airport: Bordeaux. Then take a train to reach Bergerac.

By train: direct regional trains from Bordeaux to Bergerac (1h20). To plan your trip, www.oui.sncf

Parking

If you come by car to Bergerac, you can park in the secure car parks of Bellegarde, Gambetta ou République.

Meeting time:

The first day is an arrival day without cycling. You arrive whenever you want depending on from where you come. Please note that rooms are usually available in the middle of the afternoon depending on your accommodation. We advise you to plan half a day for visiting Bergerac, which is worth it. We thank you to advise us if you plan to arrive late.

Price description

Category A
Double room fare

899 €/pers

7 nights in **/** hotels
7 breakfasts
6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (saddle bags, locks, toolkit)
the luggage transport
a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
7/7 hotline

Half-board (except in Bergerac - 5 dinners)	157 €/pers
Single occupancy extra	42 €/night
High season extra (*)	55 €/pers
Extra night in Bergerac	55 €/pers
Extra night in Bergerac - High season (from 01/06 to 30/09)	65 €/pers

Category B

1109 €/pers

Double room fare

7 nights in *** hotels or charming Bed & Breakfasts
7 breakfasts
6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (packs, helmets, locks...)
the luggage transport
a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
7/7 hotline

Half-board (except in Bergerac - 5 dinners)	167 €/pers
Single occupancy extra	48 €/night
High season extra (*)	90 €/pers
Extra night in Bergerac	90 €/pers
Extra night in Bergerac - High season (from 01/06 to 30/09)	110 €/pers

Options

Extra for the rental of an electric bike (6 days)	95 €/pers
Discount if you ride your own bicycle	-80 €/pers

(*) High season :
from 01.06 to 30.09.2021

The package doesn't include:

the journey to the tour location
the drinks
the meals which are not included
the entrance fee to sites
insurances (optional)

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