

Randonnée Tours

Dordogne Walking 11 Days

Summary

Length

11 days/10 nights, with 9 days walking

Dates

Any start date between April 1 to October 15

Level

15 km or 10 miles daily average

Some days may be longer and require walking on hilly and rocky paths

Some days are as short as 10 km (6 miles)

Opportunities to shorten the walking distance through alternate routes or taxi transfers

The Dordogne is often called the most beautiful river in France. Our tour to this land of the castles of Richard the Lionheart features the most famous and spectacular section of the river, studded with castles and cave art. The walking is perfect, and a plenitude of sights and attractions rounds out your vacation. This self-guided tour in the southwest serves as a delightful introduction to France, but also suits experienced adventurers.

Itinerary



Day 1

Arrive in Rocamadour, an ancient pilgrimage site clinging spectacularly perched on the side of cliff. If there's time, stroll along the narrow medieval

streets and visit the Chapel of Notre Dame, our Lady of Rocamadour, to whom sailors lost at sea prayed for rescue.

Day 2

Today's walk takes you through surprisingly remote countryside, along the same routes that pilgrims to Rocamadour would have taken a thousand years ago. Pass through dramatic river canyons, pause to visit a 14th-century mill, and finally arrive in the village of Lacave.

Day 3

Walk past the dramatic setting of Belcastel, relax in the park of the Chateau la Treyne. You'll also walk through delightful villages on your way to Souillac, today's destination. Souillac is a bustling town with a delightful Romanesque church. Soak in the atmosphere of the Café de Paris, where refugee poets and artists congregated during the war.

Day 4

Start the day with a short taxi transfer to Rouffillac, where you'll start your walk. Head along the river and into the hills, past two castles, one of which is the spectacular Château de Fénelon. Pass through

Groléjac, with its picturesque medieval streets. Today's destination is Carsac-Aillac, a lovely village near the junction of the Dordogne and the Enéa Rivers.



Day 5

You have several choices today. Explore Carsac, with its 16th- and 17th-century houses topped by lauze roofs and a delightful 11th-century Romanesque church. Enjoy a walk to Aillac or follow a bicycle path to Sarlat, one of the best preserved medieval towns in France. Spend a second night in Carsac.

Day 6

Walk past Montfort Castle looming over the Dordogne. Arrive in Domme, a beautiful bastide town perched on a rocky crag over the river with a three-star view. Domme's medieval gates still stand, its maze of old streets invite you to wander, and you can even visit the cave where the town's inhabitants hid during the Hundred Years' War.

Day 7

Enjoy castles and stunning scenery today. Pass Castelnaud, crowning the limestone cliffs over the river. Visit the fascinating museum of medieval warfare in the castle. Wander through the beautiful gardens of the Château de Marqueyssac, then follow an ancient route to La Roque-Gageac, considered one of the most beautiful villages in France. You'll spend two nights here.



How to get there?

You start in Rocamadour, about 500 km south of Paris.

To reach Rocamadour from Paris by train, you'll need to change trains in Brive-la-Gaillarde.

The tour ends in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, where you can catch trains to Paris or other destinations.

Itinerary

Day 8

Today stroll through La Roque-Gageac, built into the face of an overhanging cliff riddled with troglodyte caves. Head to Beynac and climb up winding, cobblestone streets to the château, once owned by mighty Richard the Lionheart, that looms over the Dordogne and glares at its rival Castelnaud on the other side.

Day 9

Follow wooded lanes to Les Milandes, a Renaissance château once owned by Josephine Baker, the famous black American entertainer who became the toast of Paris during the 1920s. Today's destination is St-Cyprien, clinging to a hillside above the Dordogne. Its old houses cluster around a massive 12th-century church that was once part of an Augustinian abbey. At the end of the afternoon, you will be transferred by a short taxi ride to Les Eyzies-de-Tayac.

Day 10

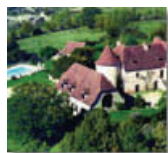
Today you have two options, you can start the day with a short taxi ride to St Cyprien and walk through the quiet countryside and past artists' studios to Les Eyzies-de-Tayac. This river valley is the land of the most famous prehistoric sites. If you prefer not to take a taxi, you have the option to visit two famous caves : Grotte de Font-de-Gaume and Grotte de Combarelles. You will also have the option for two walks from your hotel, the Circuit des gorges de l'enfer where you'll explore a bit of the Vezere valley and reach La Grotte du Grand Roc, with its unique rock formations, which resemble coral. Or perhaps choose to visit the Village of Tayac, a short easy stroll that can be extended to include a more rigorous walk with a small portion of one of the pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela.

Day 11

Explore the Musée National de Préhistoire before departing for home or for other destinations. The nine-day tour begins in Souillac. On the seven-day tour you begin in Souillac and end at La Roque Gageac.

Accommodation

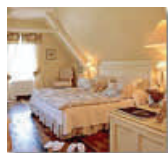
Classic



Les Vieilles Tours

Rocamadour

This charming chateau has large gardens and pool, and the rooms are furnished with period furniture.



Pont de l'Ouyse

Lacave

This hotel is in a beautiful and peaceful location by the L'Ouyse river. There is a pleasant pool and beautiful grounds and a wonderful restaurant with excellent cuisine.



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The Price includes:

- 10 nights hotels
- All breakfasts and 3 dinners
- Detailed route instructions and map
- Luggage transfers
- Area Manager available throughout the tour

Accommodation

Classic



La Vieille Auberge

Souillac

This is an intimate hotel in the tranquil village of Souillac on the River Dordogne. Guests enjoy the outdoor terrace, swimming pool, sauna and steam room, or unwind in the spa tub.



Le Relais de Touron

Carsac

This hotel is located in the peaceful surroundings of a large park. There is a lovely pool and gardens to enjoy.



L'Esplanade

Domme

Located in the picturesque medieval town of Domme, this inn directly overlooks the Dordogne with magnificent views from the terrace. It has stylish salons and a Michelin rated restaurant.



Hotel La Belle Etoile

La Roque de Gageac

Situated in one of the most beautiful villages in France, all rooms at this hotel enjoy views over the river.



Hotel Le Moulin de la Beune

Les Eyzies-de-Tayac

A former mill, this quaint hotel has one of the top restaurants in Les Eyzies.



Accommodation

"The trails were a good mix of level of difficulty with breathtaking scenery! Service was excellent! The Randonnée staff in the home office was also excellent in answering all my questions, getting us set up with the tour, providing information and in general providing excellent service with a pleasant attitude. The trip was really great. I loved it. It was a wonderful experience and I would do it again in a heartbeat!"

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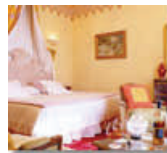
Luxe



Chateau de la Treyne

Lacave

This stunning 14th and 17th century castle perched on the Dordogne is backed by 120 hectares of forest and formal gardens. It has been carefully renovated to its earlier state of grandeur and high quality.



Hotel Le Centenaire

Les Eyzies-de-Tayac

The grand entrance of the Centenaire opens out onto a green, floral haven. Guests can sunbathe at the pool or on the terraces and lawn, or explore the wine cellar.

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