



Dordogne Walking 7 Days

Summary

Length

7 days/6 nights, with 5 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 Souillac, 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 2

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 3

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 4

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 5

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.

Day 6

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 7

Take a last stroll around La Roque Gageac before your departure.



Randonnée Tours

How to get there?

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

Souillac is on the main Paris-Toulouse rail line, a five-hour trip with no change of trains.

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

The Price includes:

- 6 nights hotels
- All breakfasts and 1 dinner
- 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.

"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!"

L. Devine