

Cycling Europe

FRANCE: DISCOVER DORDOGNE 2020 BORDEAUX TO DORDOGNE

From the Vineyards of Bordeaux to Medieval Sarlat
Self-Guided Cycling Tour, 9 days/8 nights



Start your bike tour from Bordeaux, a city of history and trade, classified as a UNESCO World Heritage area, and a centre of the best vineyards and finest wine. Experience beautiful scenery as you ride through the Bordeaux and St Emilion “grands crus” famous vineyards before reaching the Dordogne area. Stop during the day to taste the wine from these villages.

The pretty Dordogne valley offers a rich and flavoursome regional cuisine, enchanting castles, flower-filled villages and beautiful ever-changing landscapes. As you cycle the twists and turns of the Dordogne and Vezere Rivers, you are constantly rewarded with superb views – a hill top chateau, a turreted manor house surrounded by walnut trees, quaint villages, until you reach the charming medieval town of Sarlat. These areas are also famous for their outstanding gastronomy especially the prized truffle.



GRADE: Moderate to challenging. Cycling on cycle tracks and small roads with some steep hills. A good level of fitness required.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive Bordeaux

Make your way to your hotel in the heart of the Old City, near the great theatre. There will be a handover of bikes at your hotel around 6.00 pm. The rest of the evening is free to explore and have dinner in one of the many local restaurants.



Day 2: Bordeaux - Cadillac, 49 kms

You will leave Bordeaux on the cycle track through the quiet and beautiful countryside of the Gironde region. This will lead you to Créon, a typical fortified village. Then continue through the vineyards of Cadillac. Pass by Loupiac and Saint Croix du Mont, famous for their syrupy wines and reach your hotel in the village of Cadillac, which still boasts its ancient city walls.

Day 3: Excursion to Sauternes vineyards, 46kms

Cycle through forests and vineyards to reach the well renowned Chateau Yquem, icon of

Sauternes wines, known for its sweet honey flavours. Visit cellars and carry on between the vines en route to a resting place of Topoulouse Lautrec. Return to Cadillac for the night.

Day 4: Cadillac – St Emilion - 50 kms

Cycle through the heart of 'Entre-deux Mers' vineyards, from the Garonne to the Dordogne River. Visit the charming village of Rauzan, overlooked by its dignified medieval chateau; it also has a wonderful cave with an underground river. Continue to the prestigious village of Saint-Emilion. Allow time for a wine tasting and exploration of its historic monuments.

Day 5: St Emilion – Bergerac - 68 kms

Ride once again through the great St Emilion vineyards before reaching the Dordogne River. There you will enjoy the charming 18th century village Sainte-Foy-la-Grande with its half-

timbered houses and cheerful streets. Now it's time to follow the splendid routes crossing the Montbazillac vineyards, overseen by its majestic chateau. Arrive Bergerac, a city of art and history, and wonderfully sited on the banks of the Dordogne River.



Chateau Montbazillac and vineyards

Day 6: Bergerac – Les Eyzies - 61 kms

Leave the Renaissance city centre of Bergerac to follow the Dordogne River until the picture postcard perfect village of Limeuil. Situated on the confluence of the Dordogne and the Vézère rivers, this medieval village offers canoeing and a river beach for swimming. Proceed to Les Eyzies Village, built on a cliff, and with numerous pre-historic rock dwellings in the area dating back 460,000 years!

Day 7: Les Eyzies – Sarlat - 26kms or 54 kms

From Les Eyzies, taking the longer cycle day - you will cycle to Montignac to visit the cave of Lascaux, and the famous prehistoric paintings that line the walls; nicknamed “the Sistine Chapel of prehistory. This replica of the original cave (now closed to the public due to damage caused by carbon dioxide) is beautifully done and well worth the ride up the hill to get there. (Tickets must be booked locally in advance as the number of visitors per day is restricted).

Otherwise meander through pretty country to reach the famous medieval town of Sarlat. This town of cobbled streets, and old stone walls has an exceptional heritage. Sarlat is a medieval town that developed around a large Benedictine abbey, the medieval Sarlat Cathedral dedicated to Saint Sacerdos. Modern history has largely passed it by, so Sarlat has remained preserved as one of the towns most representative of 14th century France. This city is also well

known by gourmets for its delicious local produce, such as duck ‘foie gras’, truffles, mushroom and its market where you can smell, taste and discover all these treasures.



Day 8: Excursion to La Roque Gageac – Beynac - 42kms (option + 5.6kms)

A last bike excursion to discover the most beautiful views over the Dordogne area, with its numerous medieval villages and chateaux. After riding on the peaceful cycle path, arrive at the ancient walled town of Domme, perched high on a cliff, enjoying panoramic

views across the Dordogne Valley. Stroll around the bastide town of Domme, a medieval masterpiece of cobblestone streets, honey-coloured homes with flower-filled courtyards. Within the walls of this 12th-century village, you can visit the caves where the villagers hid during the Hundred Years' War. On the Grand Rue, the town's shopping street, you may purchase some of the many exquisite handicrafts, wine and food specialties of the Périgord region.



Leave Domme and stop for a visit in the village of La Roque Gageac, an ancient river harbour carved in the cliff before reaching Beynac with its impressive, crag-top chateau. Return to Sarlat.

Day 9: Sarlat

Arrangements end in Sarlat after breakfast.

2020 TOUR DEPARTURE DATES:

Start any day March to October (subject to hotel availability).

Standard: 2* and 3* hotels

Superior: 3* and 4* hotels

2020 COST PER PERSON IN EURO

	Standard	Superior
Double / Twin Share (min 2 people)	€1530	€2025
Double / Twin Share (min 4 people)	€1465	€1959
Single Supplement	€ 385	€ 700
Half Board Supplement (7 dinners)	€ 240	€ 280
Solo Traveller Supplement	€355	

EXTRA NIGHTS, INCLUDING BREAKFAST

Bordeaux €89 - €134 per person share twin/double
€84 - €100 single room supplement

Sarlat €78 - €145 per person share twin/double bed
€34 - €123 single room supplement

2020 BIKE COSTS

Bike Rental (21-speed men's or ladies) € 180

Electric Bike Rental € 285

Bike with 2 panniers, front bag, lock, map holder, helmet, counter and repair kit, safety vest

2020 COST INCLUDES:

- 8 night's accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- 1 dinner
- Luggage transfers
- Detailed route maps and directions, tourist brochures
- City taxes
- 7 day service hotline

GETTING TO BORDEAUX:

Trains operate from Paris Montparnasse Railway Station to Bordeaux St Jean Railway Station. Return to Paris from Sarlat via Bordeaux. More regular trains operate from nearby Souillac (via Brive) back to Paris. Car transfer from Sarlat to Souillac from €70 – to be requested at time of reservation.



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