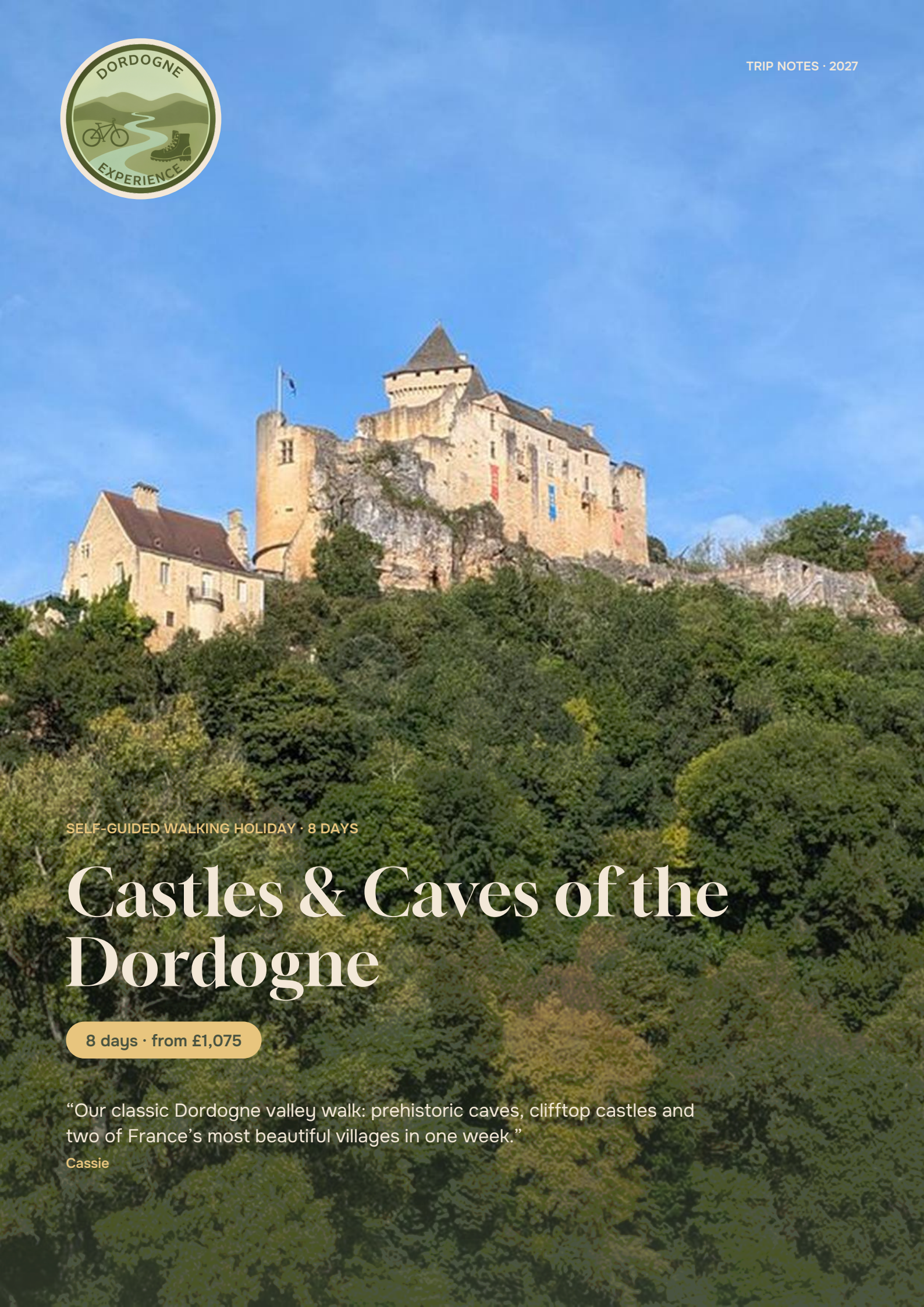


SELF-GUIDED WALKING HOLIDAY · 8 DAYS

Castles & Caves of the Dordogne

8 days · from £1,075

"Our classic Dordogne valley walk: prehistoric caves, clifftop castles and two of France's most beautiful villages in one week."

Cassie

Our classic Dordogne valley walk: a week through the prehistoric Vézère valley and into the heart of the Dordogne, past cliffside caves, clifftop castles and two of France's most beautiful villages, Beynac and Castelnaud, ending in medieval Sarlat.

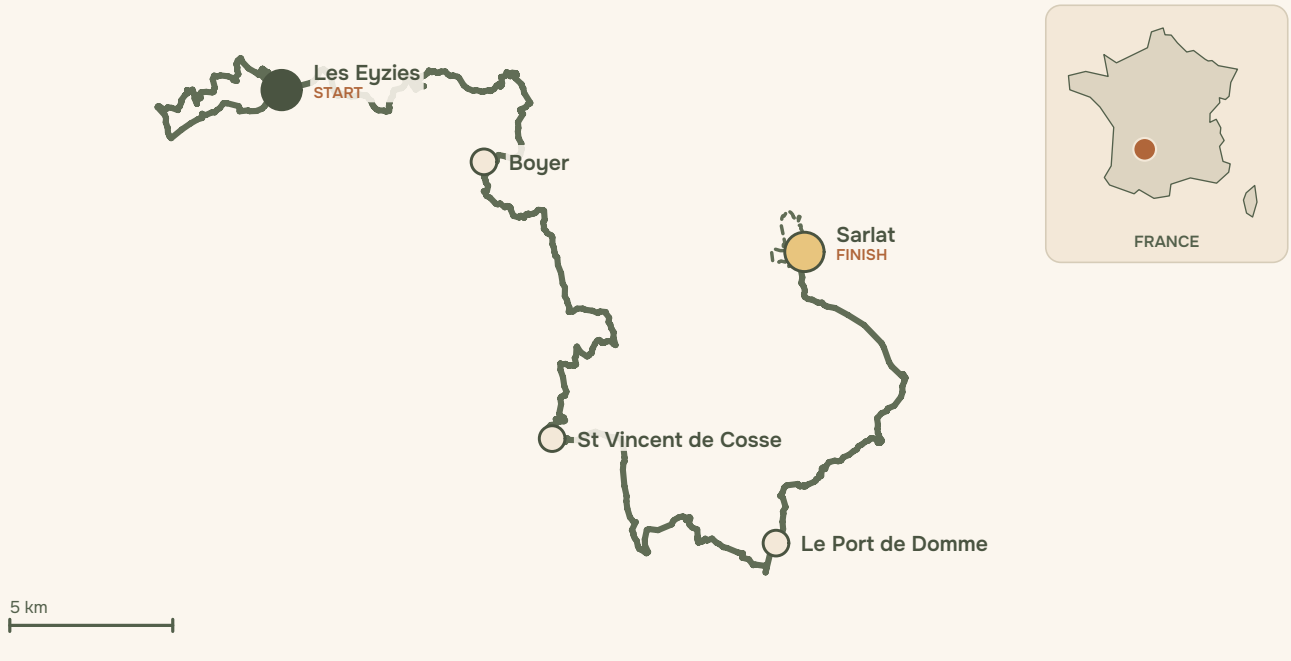
THE ESSENTIALS

Key facts

DURATION	8 days (7 nights)
WALKING EACH DAY	13.8–16.1 km (9–10 miles) An optional walk on day 7 (7.4 km (4.6 miles))
ACTIVITY LEVEL	Moderate, with a few short steep climbs
DAILY CLIMB	Up to 450 m (about 1,500 ft) Measured from our GPX tracks
START AND FINISH	Les Eyzies to Sarlat
OWNED AND RUN BY	Cassie at Dordogne Experience
HOLIDAY STYLE	Self-guided, inn to inn, with your luggage moved for you
SEASON AND START DAYS	April–October Start any day
HOTELS	Often family-run 2-star to 4-star hotels, 3 of 5 with a pool
MEALS	7 breakfasts, 5 dinners
LOCATION	Dordogne & Vézère, France

WHERE YOU'LL GO

The route



Drawn from our own GPX tracks (optional walks dashed). We email you these tracks as GPX files for your phone. Town positions © OpenStreetMap contributors.

The Vézère Valley

Its prehistoric sites and decorated caves have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979. Rock shelters, cave art and the National Museum of Prehistory are all within easy reach of Les Eyzies.

PER PERSON

2027 prices

	8 DAYS 7 nights	9 DAYS 8 nights	10 DAYS 9 nights
Per person, sharing a double or twin	**£1,075**	**£1,200**	**£1,310**
Single room supplement	+£285	+£325	+£360
Travelling solo (on top of the per-person price)	+£430	+£480	+£540

Prices are per person, sharing a double/twin room. The 8-day holiday (highlighted) is the one described here. The longer versions add extra nights along the route. We'll send the full day-by-day with your quote. Want both? The Great Dordogne Walk joins Castles & Caves and Exploring Rocamadour into one 14-day holiday, for less than booking them separately.

In US dollars	about US$1,410	about US$1,570	about US$1,710
In Canadian dollars	about C$2,020	about C$2,250	about C$2,460
In Australian dollars	about A$2,120	about A$2,370	about A$2,590
In New Zealand dollars	about NZ$2,580	about NZ$2,880	about NZ$3,140
In euros	about €1,280	about €1,430	about €1,570

Approximate amounts at the 23 November 2026 exchange rate. Prices are set in pounds, and you can pay in any currency you prefer.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

What to expect

Our classic Dordogne walk. In a week on foot you travel from the prehistoric caves of the Vézère valley to the great castles of the Dordogne and finish in medieval Sarlat, staying in five often family-run hotels, three of them with a pool.

Highlights

- Two nights in Les Eyzies, beneath the limestone cliffs where Stone Age people lived, home to the National Museum of Prehistory
- The Château de Commarque on its rock above the Beune valley, hidden by the forest for centuries and only rediscovered in the 20th century
- Beynac and Castelnaud, two of France's most beautiful villages, their castles facing each other across the river, with an optional detour to the hanging gardens of Marqueyssac
- A night at the 4-star Hôtel Le Périgord at Le Port de Domme
- The car-free Voie Verte greenway into Sarlat, then a free day in one of France's finest medieval towns, with the region's largest market on Saturdays

What we look after for you

A family business. Dordogne Experience has been creating self-guided walking and cycling holidays here for over 40 years. It's owned and run by Cassie, and every route has been walked or cycled by our family.

Hotels we know personally. Small, characterful hotels, many of them family-run and many with a pool, chosen for their welcome and their cooking. On our Dordogne and Lot holidays, Cassie knows every one of them.

Luggage moved for you. You carry only what you need for the day. Your bags are taken on each time you change hotel and are waiting when you arrive.

Easy to follow. Our own detailed route notes, plus GPX tracks for your phone, so you can explore at your own pace with confidence.

Support throughout. Cassie is a phone call or WhatsApp message away for the whole holiday, in English or French, with real local knowledge.

Flexible and private. Just you and your party, with no groups and no fixed departures. Holidays can start on most days from April to October, and we can add extra nights or rest days, upgrade hotels or make a longer version.

Every booking handled personally. Cassie books every hotel, luggage transfer and included taxi herself, and before you go you'll have a welcome letter with everything you need.

Who it suits. Regular walkers who want the Dordogne's big sights, from caves to castles, in one week. Moderate, 13.8 to 16.1 km (9 to 10 miles) a day.


Les Eyzies


Beynac


Sarlat

YOUR HOLIDAY

At a glance

DAY	ROUTE	DISTANCE	CLIMB	OVERNIGHT
1	Arrival in Les Eyzies	–	–	Les Eyzies · Le Moulin de la Beune
2	Around Les Eyzies (circular walk)	14.4 km (8.9 miles)	↑ 220 m (about 700 ft) ↓ 220 m (about 700 ft)	Les Eyzies · Le Moulin de la Beune
3	Les Eyzies to Boyer	16.1 km (10 miles)	↑ 450 m (about 1,500 ft) ↓ 340 m (about 1,100 ft)	Boyer · Domaine de la Rhonie
4	Boyer to St Vincent de Cosse	15.7 km (9.8 miles)	↑ 310 m (about 1,000 ft) ↓ 400 m (about 1,300 ft)	St Vincent de Cosse · Domaine de Monrecour
5	St Vincent de Cosse to Le Port de Domme	13.8 km (8.6 miles)	↑ 130 m (about 450 ft) ↓ 130 m (about 450 ft)	Le Port de Domme · Hôtel Le Périgord
6	Le Port de Domme to Sarlat	14.2 km (8.8 miles), 15.1 km (9.4 miles) if you're staying at La Verperie	↑ 210 m (about 700 ft) ↓ 140 m (about 450 ft)	Sarlat · Hotel La Couleuvrine
7	Free day in Sarlat (optional circular walk)	Optional 7.4 km (4.6 miles)	↑ 150 m (about 500 ft) ↓ 150 m (about 500 ft)	Sarlat · Hotel La Couleuvrine
8	Departure	–	–	–

Climbs shown where we've measured the route.

IN DETAIL

Day by day

DAY 1

Arrival in Les Eyzies

Dinner included

Arrive in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, a village tucked beneath overhanging limestone cliffs on the banks of the Vézère. Look up and you'll see the statue of a caveman marking the caves where Stone Age people lived, and the National Museum of Prehistory is here too. Your first two nights are at Le Moulin de la Beune, an old mill on the Beune in the village centre.

Tonight: Les Eyzies · Le Moulin de la Beune

DAY 2

Around Les Eyzies (circular walk)

14.4 km (8.9 miles) · ↑ 220 m (about 700 ft) ↓ 220 m (about 700 ft) · Bed & breakfast, dinner out

An easy circular walk with lovely views of the cliffs and grottos above the Vézère. From the hotel you follow the main street, Avenue de la Préhistoire, for about 0.8 km (0.5 miles) to join the loop at Rue de Tayac, and come back the same way at the end. It's worth a short detour to the Grotte de Saint-Cirq, set beside a little house built into the rock, and you can combine the walk with a visit to the National Museum of Prehistory.

Tonight: Les Eyzies · Le Moulin de la Beune

ELEVATION



DAY 3

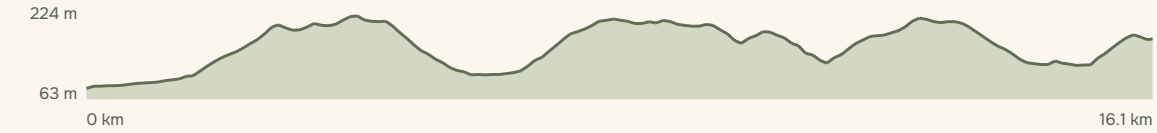
Les Eyzies to Boyer

16.1 km (10 miles) · ↑ 450 m (about 1,500 ft) ↓ 340 m (about 1,100 ft) · Dinner included

From the hotel, turn left along the main street, Avenue de la Préhistoire, which becomes Avenue de la Forge, then leave Les Eyzies through woods and quiet valleys to the Château de Commarque, on its rocky outcrop above the Beune valley. Hidden beneath undergrowth for centuries and only rediscovered in the 20th century, it's still being restored, and you can climb the tower for superb views. Tonight's hotel has a swimming pool.

Tonight: Boyer · Domaine de la Rhonie

ELEVATION



DAY 4

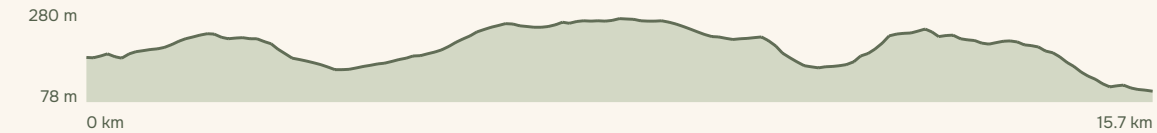
Boyer to St Vincent de Cosse

15.7 km (9.8 miles) · ↑ 310 m (about 1,000 ft) ↓ 400 m (about 1,300 ft) · Dinner included

An undulating walk through shaded woods and fields brings you to the hamlet of St Vincent de Cosse, close to the Dordogne, and the lovely Domaine de Monrecour, which has a swimming pool. An alternative route today takes you to the 12th-century Château de Beynac, perched on its crag above the river and the medieval village below, one of France's Plus Beaux Villages. This alternative ends with a short stretch along a busy road to St Vincent de Cosse, so take care.

Tonight: St Vincent de Cosse · Domaine de Monrecour

ELEVATION



DAY 5

St Vincent de Cosse to Le Port de Domme

13.8 km (8.6 miles) · ↑ 130 m (about 450 ft) ↓ 130 m (about 450 ft) · Dinner included

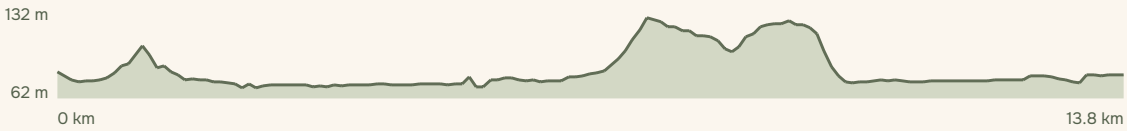
A day of highlights. From Domaine de Monrecour you walk through Beynac, then along the river to the medieval Château de Castelnaud, home to a fine collection of medieval war machines, with an optional detour to the hanging gardens of Marqueyssac. You carry on through St Julien and Cénac and over the bridge to Le Port de Domme, where tonight's hotel sits in a quiet, tree-lined park with indoor and outdoor pools.



Beynac

Tonight: Le Port de Domme · Hôtel Le Périgord

ELEVATION



DAY 6

Le Port de Domme to Sarlat

14.2 km (8.8 miles), 15.1 km (9.4 miles) if you're staying at La Verperie · ↑ 210 m (about 700 ft) ↓ 140 m (about 450 ft) · Dinner included

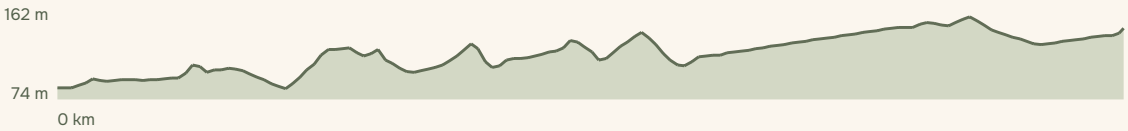
Quiet farm lanes lead you through Vitrac and beneath the Château de Montfort, high on its rock above the river. Destroyed and rebuilt four times, it has 800 years of turbulent history behind it. Then the Voie Verte, a car-free greenway on an old railway line, carries you into Sarlat, whose medieval streets and golden stone facades are protected by law.



Sarlat

Tonight: Sarlat · Hotel La Couleuvrine

ELEVATION



DAY 7

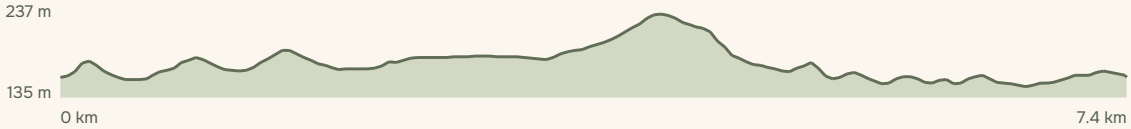
Free day in Sarlat (optional circular walk)

Optional 7.4 km (4.6 miles) · ↑ 150 m (about 500 ft) ↓ 150 m (about 500 ft) · Bed & breakfast, dinner out

A day to enjoy Sarlat. There's a produce market every Wednesday and Saturday, and on Saturdays it's the largest in the region. Take the glass lift up the Sainte-Marie bell tower for panoramic views, or simply watch the world go by from a street café. An optional circular walk is in your route notes.

Tonight: Sarlat · Hotel La Couleuvrine

ELEVATION



DAY 8

Departure

Your holiday ends after breakfast.

FOR THE LONGER VERSIONS

Optional extra days

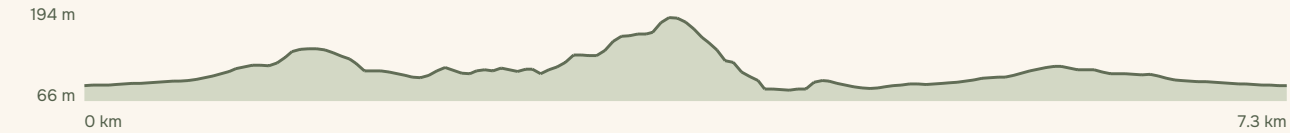
Add one or both of these walks to make your holiday longer, as in the 9- and 10-day versions. We'll fit them into your itinerary and send you the full day-by-day with your quote.

Circular walk to La Roque-Gageac

Optional 7.3 km (4.5 miles) · ↑ 190 m (about 600 ft) ↓ 190 m (about 600 ft)

A loop from Le Port de Domme, on the Dordogne below Domme. Quiet lanes and a rocky clifftop path lead down to La Roque-Gageac, one of France's Plus Beaux Villages, its golden houses squeezed between the cliff and the river. If you have the energy, carry on to the hanging gardens of Marqueyssac and the Château de Castelnaud (dashed on the map).

ELEVATION



Circular walk to Domme

Optional 10.7 km (6.6 miles) · ↑ 170 m (about 550 ft) ↓ 170 m (about 550 ft)

A loop from Le Port de Domme up the old lanes to Domme, a 13th-century bastide perched high above the river, where the clifftop belvedere looks out over the whole valley.

ELEVATION



WALK ALL DAY, EAT VERY WELL

Food along the way



A pan-fried fish fillet topped with purple potato crisps and rocket



Cured salmon with a little herb-cream tartlet, Sarlat



Steak with grilled courgette and squash purée, Sarlat

NO SURPRISES

What's included

Included

- ✓ 7 nights' accommodation, sharing a double or twin room
- ✓ 7 breakfasts and 5 dinners
- ✓ Your luggage moved on each time you change hotel
- ✓ Our detailed route notes
- ✓ GPX files by email, with simple instructions for using them on your phone
- ✓ Support by phone and WhatsApp throughout your holiday

Not included

- — Travel to the start and from the finish
- — Lunches and drinks
- — Entrance fees (châteaux, caves, gardens and museums)
- — Travel insurance (we strongly recommend it)
- — Personal expenses



FROM KEV AND CASSIE

Welcome

Thank you for reading. We plan every holiday ourselves, from the routes to the hotels, and we'd love to help you plan yours. Send us your dates and any questions you have, and I'll be in touch within 24 hours.

Cassie
A family business, owned and run by Cassie.

This route has been walked by our family, and every hotel is one we know.

Ready when you are

Tell us when you'd like to travel and we'll check availability and send you a quote, with the full details of your holiday.

Enquire: dordogneexperience.com/book-holiday
Call or WhatsApp Cassie: +44 7476 205 325
Email: hello@dordogneexperience.com
This holiday: dordogneexperience.com/vezere-valley

Scan to enquire about this holiday

Booking and cancelling: A 25% deposit secures your holiday. The balance is due 8 weeks before you travel (book within 8 weeks and the full price is due when you book). Cancelling, in writing: more than 56 days before departure, 25% of the holiday price (your deposit); 56 to 29 days, 50%; 28 to 15 days, 70%; 14 days or less, 100%. Prices are set in pounds, and you can pay in any currency you prefer. Book early for May, June and September. Our hotels are small and often family-run, and they fill first in those months, so the earlier you book, the more choice of dates you'll have. Read the full Terms: dordogneexperience.com/terms-of-service.

Dordogne Experience has been organising walking and cycling holidays in the region for over 40 years.

IN THEIR WORDS

What our guests say

"Had the most amazing few days in and around Sarlat. Highly recommend the castles and caves tour! Cassie is a fantastic host and goes the extra mile to make sure everyone gets the most out of their holiday, everything feels so well organised you can completely relax and enjoy it."

Claire G. · Castles & Caves of the Dordogne · October 2026