



SELF-GUIDED WALKING HOLIDAY · 8 DAYS

France's Most Beautiful Villages

Les Plus Beaux Villages de France walk

8 days · from £965

“Seven of France's most beautiful villages (Autoire on the day 7 walks), joined by quiet paths through the Corrèze and the Lot.”

Cassie



A week on foot through seven of France's officially most beautiful villages (Autoire is on the day 7 walks), all members of the Les Plus Beaux Villages de France association, from the red sandstone of Collonges-la-Rouge to the clifftop lanes of Loubressac, with a characterful, often family-run hotel and a good dinner waiting at the end of the day.

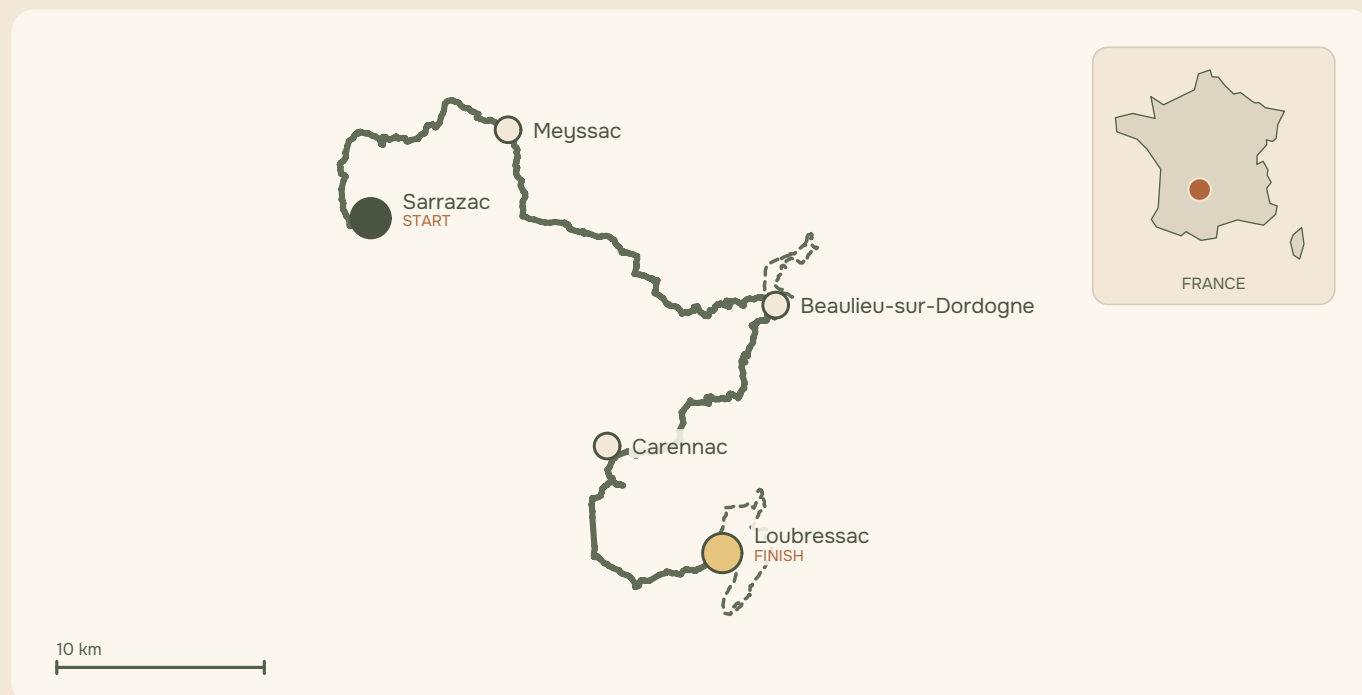
THE ESSENTIALS

Key facts

DURATION	8 days (7 nights)
WALKING EACH DAY	15.5–23 km (10–14 miles) Optional walks on days 4 (14.6 km (9.1 miles)) and 7 (20.3 km (13 miles))
ACTIVITY LEVEL	Moderate, with a few short steep climbs
DAILY CLIMB	Up to 560 m (about 1,850 ft) Measured from our GPX tracks
START AND FINISH	Sarrazac to Loubressac
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 except Friday or Sunday (some restaurants on the route close on those days)
HOTELS	Often family-run 2-star and 3-star hotels
MEALS	7 breakfasts, 6 dinners
LOCATION	Corrèze and Lot, 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.



What are the Plus Beaux Villages de France?

France's most beautiful villages

An independent association founded in 1982 to protect and promote small rural villages of outstanding heritage. Villages must have fewer than 2,000 inhabitants, apply to join and meet strict criteria.

PER PERSON

2027 prices

	8 DAYS 7 nights	9 DAYS 8 nights	10 DAYS 9 nights	11 DAYS 10 nights
Per person, sharing a double or twin	£965	£1,080	£1,190	£1,300
Single room supplement	+£280	+£315	+£345	+£375
Travelling solo (on top of the per-person price)	+£340	+£390	+£460	+£530

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 way, starting with a free day at Loubressac for circular walks to the Château de Castelnau, Autoire and its cirque. We'll send the full day-by-day with your quote.

In US dollars	about US\$1,290	about US\$1,440	about US\$1,590	about US\$1,740
In Canadian dollars	about C\$1,810	about C\$2,020	about C\$2,230	about C\$2,430
In Australian dollars	about A\$1,840	about A\$2,060	about A\$2,270	about A\$2,470
In New Zealand dollars	about NZ\$2,270	about NZ\$2,540	about NZ\$2,800	about NZ\$3,060
In euros	about €1,150	about €1,290	about €1,420	about €1,550

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

ALONG THE WAY

What to expect



Meyssac



Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne



On the way to Collonges-la-Rouge: Cassie, arms out, on a woodland path



YOUR HOLIDAY

At a glance

DAY	ROUTE	DISTANCE	CLIMB	OVERNIGHT
1	Arrival in Sarrazac	–	–	Sarrazac · La Bonne Famille
2	Sarrazac to Meyssac	17.9 km (11 miles)	↑ 390 m (about 1,300 ft) ↓ 410 m (about 1,350 ft)	Meyssac · Relais du Quercy Hotel
3	Meyssac to Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne	23.0 km (14 miles)	↑ 560 m (about 1,850 ft) ↓ 610 m (about 2,000 ft)	Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne · Hotel Le Beaulieu
4	Rest day in Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne	Optional 14.6 km (9.1 miles)	↑ 210 m (about 700 ft) ↓ 210 m (about 700 ft)	Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne · Hotel Le Beaulieu
5	Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne to Carennac	19.4 km (12 miles)	↑ 420 m (about 1,400 ft) ↓ 440 m (about 1,450 ft)	Carennac · Hotel Fenelon
6	Carennac to Loubressac	15.5 km (9.6 miles)	↑ 350 m (about 1,150 ft) ↓ 160 m (about 500 ft)	Loubressac · Le Cantou 354 (or Le Relais de Castelnau, depending on availability)
7	Optional circular walks from Loubressac	Optional 20.3 km (13 miles)	↑ 390 m (about 1,300 ft) ↓ 390 m (about 1,300 ft)	Loubressac · Le Cantou 354 (or Le Relais de Castelnau, depending on availability)
8	Departure	–	–	–

Climbs shown where we've measured the route.

IN DETAIL

Day by day

DAY

1

Arrival in Sarrazac

Dinner included

Arrive in the quiet village of Sarrazac and settle in at La Bonne Famille, a 3-star Logis hotel whose cellar was once the village smithy. If there's time, have a dip in the pool before dinner.

Tonight: Sarrazac · La Bonne Famille

DAY

2

Sarrazac to Meyssac

17.9 km (11 miles)

↑ 390 m (about 1,300 ft) ↓ 410 m (about 1,350 ft)

Dinner included

Two of the Corrèze's Plus Beaux Villages in one day. First comes hilltop Turenne, the perfect stop for lunch, then lush country lanes lead you to Collonges-la-Rouge, a medieval village built entirely of red sandstone. Both villages are on the Voie de Rocamadour, a pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela.

Tonight: Meyssac · Relais du Quercy Hotel



Kev and Cassie, toasting Collonges-la-Rouge

ELEVATION

332 m

153 m

0 km

17.9 km

DAY

3

Meyssac to Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne

23.0 km (14 miles)

↑ 560 m (about 1,850 ft) ↓ 610 m (about 2,000 ft)

Dinner included

The longest walk of the week takes you through Curemonte, a remarkably well-preserved hilltop village with wide views over the countryside. You finish with a lovely descent down an ancient cobbled mule track into Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne, another of France's Plus Beaux Villages.

Tonight: Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne · Hotel Le Beaulieu



Curemonte on its hilltop, one of Les Plus Beaux Villages de France

ELEVATION

353 m

135 m

0 km

23.0 km

DAY

4

Rest day in Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne

Optional 14.6 km (9.1 miles)

↑ 210 m (about 700 ft) ↓ 210 m (about 700 ft)

Bed & breakfast, dinner out

A day off by the river. Stroll around the old town, have lunch at a bustling pavement café, or follow the circular walk in your route notes. Tonight is bed and breakfast, so you can choose from the local restaurants.

Tonight: Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne · Hotel Le Beaulieu



Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne, one of Les Plus Beaux Villages de France

ELEVATION

350 m

140 m

0 km

14.6 km

DAY

5

Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne to Carennac

19.4 km (12 miles)

↑ 420 m (about 1,400 ft) ↓ 440 m (about 1,450 ft)

Dinner included

A climb through woodland, past three nature information posts, leads to sweeping views across the countryside. You then cross the Dordogne to Carennac, where it's worth taking your time in the winding streets. There's a swimming pool for a cooling dip.

Tonight: Carennac · Hotel Fenelon



Carennac

ELEVATION

308 m

119 m

0 km

19.4 km

DAY

6

Carennac to Loubressac

15.5 km (9.6 miles)

↑ 350 m (about 1,150 ft) ↓ 160 m (about 500 ft)

Dinner included

Across the high limestone plateau of the causse to the Gouffre de Padirac, an immense chasm where you can take a boat along an underground river among the stalactites. Then on over the causse to Loubressac, a fortified village perched high on its clifftop.

Tonight: Loubressac · Le Cantou 354 (or Le Relais de Castelnau, depending on availability)



Loubressac, one of Les Plus Beaux Villages de France

ELEVATION

385 m

134 m

0 km

15.5 km

DAY

7

Optional circular walks from Loubressac

Optional 20.3 km (13 miles)

↑ 390 m (about 1,300 ft) ↓ 390 m (about 1,300 ft)

Dinner included

Three circular options today: a walk to the magnificent Château de Castelnau, with lunch at its restaurant, Les Remparts; a walk to Autoire, with its gentlemen's houses and a climb up the cirque, the rock amphitheatre above the village; or, for the energetic, one that takes in both. It's up to you on the day: the castle, Autoire, both, or a shorter, easier day. The map shows the walk that takes in both; your route notes have all three.

Tonight: Loubressac · Le Cantou 354 (or Le Relais de Castelnau, depending on availability)



Château de Castelnau

ELEVATION

374 m

128 m

0 km

20.3 km

DAY

8

Departure

All good things come to an end. After breakfast, you continue with your onward travel.



FOR THE LONGER VERSIONS

Optional extra days

These walks are only on the longer versions (9, 10 or 11 days): add one or more of them. We'll fit them into your itinerary and send you the full day-by-day with your quote.

Circular walk from Meyssac

Optional 13.3 km (8.3 miles)

↑ 450 m (about 1,500 ft) ↓ 450 m (about 1,500 ft)

A loop from Meyssac, the red-stone market village, through the countryside around it.

ELEVATION

468 m

188 m

0 km

13.3 km

Loubressac to Rocamadour

Optional 21.3 km (13 miles)

↑ 250 m (about 800 ft) ↓ 410 m (about 1,350 ft)

From Loubressac across the limestone cause to Rocamadour, the pilgrimage town clinging to its cliff above the Alzou gorge.

ELEVATION

384 m

174 m

0 km

21.3 km

Circular walk from Rocamadour

Optional 10.8 km (6.7 miles)

↑ 280 m (about 900 ft) ↓ 280 m (about 900 ft)

A loop from Rocamadour, with time to explore the town and its sanctuaries built into the rock.

ELEVATION

277 m

115 m

0 km

10.8 km



WALK ALL DAY, EAT VERY WELL

Food along the way



Meyssac



Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne



Carennac

NO SURPRISES

What's included

Included

- ✓ 7 nights' accommodation, sharing a double or twin room
- ✓ 7 breakfasts and 6 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

IN THEIR WORDS

What our guests say

"Thank you so much for giving us a fantastic holiday walk – probably the best we have had in 25 years of trekking and cycling in France. The route was superb, through wonderful countryside, and the accommodation/meals couldn't have been better, or the owners and staff more friendly and helpful. The route instructions were certainly the best we've experienced. The fact that we went on this year from the Dordogne to stay in a lovely gite in the Auvergne certainly made this one of the most perfect holidays we've ever had in France. Again, thank you."

Ian & Sue, Somerset · Plus Beaux Villages of the Dordogne Walk



BEFORE YOU GO

Practical information



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Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne



Kev and Cassie, a stop in Carennac

Getting there and away

By air. Brive-Vallée de la Dordogne airport is only a few minutes from Sarrazac. Bordeaux and Toulouse are further away, with trains to Brive.

From further afield. From Australia, the USA and further afield, most long-haul flights land at Paris Charles de Gaulle, with connecting flights to Bordeaux or Toulouse, or a train from Paris to the region.

By train. The nearest main station is Brive-la-Gaillarde, about 4½ to 5 hours from Paris Austerlitz. From Brive it's around half an hour by taxi to Sarrazac.

By car. Calais to Sarrazac is around 800 km, roughly 8 hours' driving.

Going home. The walk ends in Loubressac, and your hotel can book a taxi to take you to Brive or Souillac station.

Parking. You can leave your car at your first hotel in Sarrazac free of charge. Just let us know in advance so we can tell them.

Route finding

Our detailed route notes come in digital form, so you always know where the next turn is.

We also email you GPX files, with simple instructions for using them on your phone, so you can see exactly where you are on the map.

It varies by route. Some sections are waymarked, and your route notes tell you where. The notes and GPS guide you the rest of the way.

Bring a smartphone with mobile data and a power bank. If you take a wrong turn, the GPX track shows you the way back, and we're a call or WhatsApp away.

We've walked or cycled our Dordogne and Lot routes ourselves, so our notes come from first-hand experience.



Meals and dietary needs

Included: 7 breakfasts and 6 dinners. The day-by-day shows which nights include dinner.

Some hotels can make you a packed lunch; details are in your route notes.

Breakfast is usually French-style: fresh bread and croissants with butter and jam, and coffee, tea or hot chocolate. Some hotels add yoghurt, fruit or cheese.

Lunch is up to you, and it's one of the pleasures of the day: pick up a picnic from a village bakery or market, or stop at a café along the way. On some days there are few shops on the route, so it's worth buying lunch before you set off.

Tell us about any dietary needs when you book and we'll let every hotel know. Vegetarian meals are no problem. Other needs, such as gluten-free food or a serious allergy, are harder for small country kitchens, so please talk to Cassie before you book, and always carry any medication you need.

Drinks aren't included: anything you enjoy with dinner is simply settled with the hotel before you leave.

Your luggage

Whenever you change hotel, your bags are taken on for you, so they're waiting when you arrive. Please have them ready at reception by 9am.

During the day you only need a daypack: water, snacks, a waterproof, sun cream and a hat, plus anything you'll want before evening, such as medication.

Many of our hotels are in old buildings and some have no lift, so expect the odd flight of stairs with your bags.

One bag per person, up to 20 kg.

Hotels and check-in

Rooms are usually ready from mid-afternoon, and check-out is usually by 10 or 11am. If you arrive early, the hotel will normally look after your bags while you explore.

Most rooms have a shower rather than a bath, as is usual in French country hotels.

The day-by-day above lists your hotels night by night, and we'll send you full details with your booking confirmation.

Weather and when to go

Our season runs from April to October.

Spring brings wildflowers and fresh green valleys, with mild days that can still be showery; April mornings can be cool.

June and September are often the sweet spot: warm, settled and quieter, and September brings the grape harvest.

July and August are hot, often 30 °C or more in the afternoon, so set off early, carry plenty of water and plan a long lunch in the shade. Summer thunderstorms can be heavy but usually pass quickly.

October is golden and peaceful, with cooler days, shorter evenings and a little more rain.



Language

French is the language of the route. Most hotels speak some English, but in small villages, shops and cafés you'll often find they don't.

A few words go a long way and are always appreciated: *bonjour* as you walk into a shop, *merci*, and in addition, *s'il vous plaît* when you'd like the bill.

Markets and things to book ahead

The Gouffre de Padirac, a vast chasm with an underground river you explore by boat, is close to the route between Carennac and Loubressac. Visits are by timed ticket, so book online before you travel.



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

Owned and run by Cassie, with Keith and Val on hand with advice.

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: www.dordogneexperience.com/book-holiday

Call or WhatsApp Cassie: +44 7476 205 325

Email: hello@dordogneexperience.com

This holiday: www.dordogneexperience.com/plus-beaux-villages



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](http://www.dordogneexperience.com/terms-of-service): www.dordogneexperience.com/terms-of-service.

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