



SELF-GUIDED WALKING HOLIDAY · 8 DAYS

Castles & Caves of the Dordogne

8 days · from £995

“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.

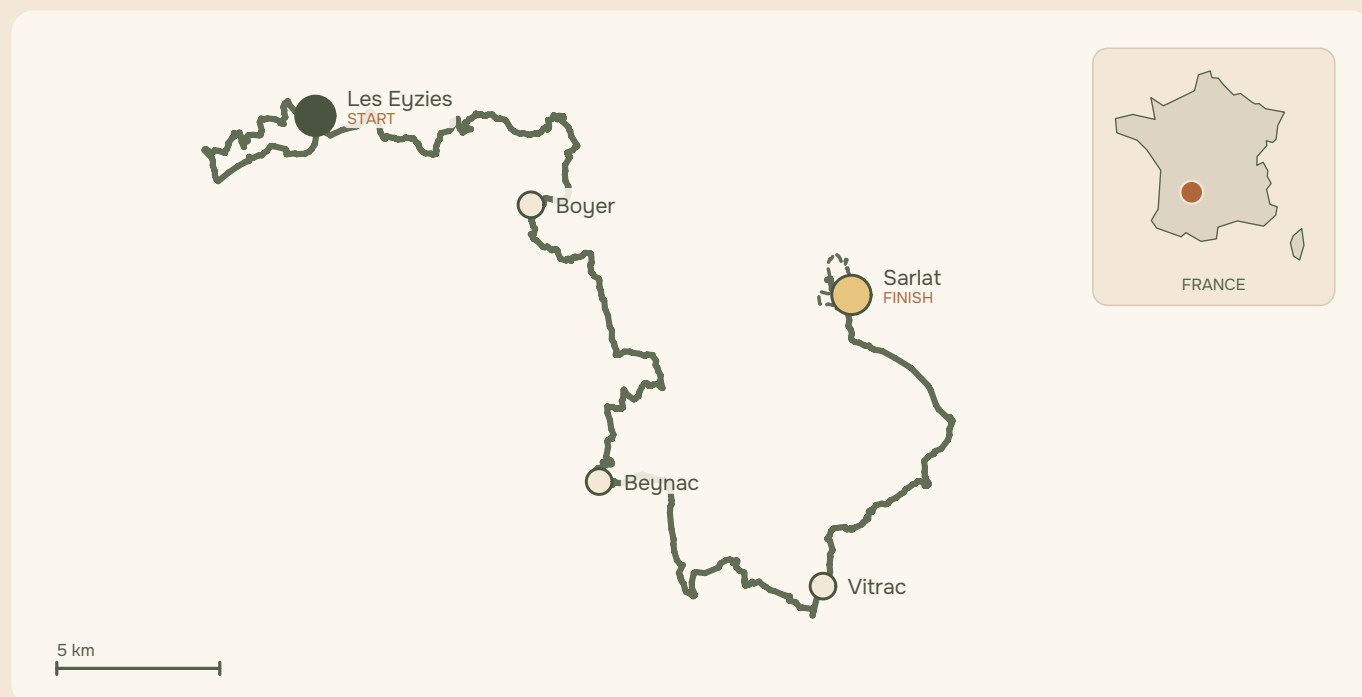
THE ESSENTIALS

Key facts

DURATION	8 days (7 nights)
WALKING EACH DAY	12.8–17.8 km (8–11 miles) An optional walk on day 7 (8.3 km (5.2 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 and 3-star hotels, 4 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	£995	£1,120	£1,230
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.

In US dollars	about US\$1,330	about US\$1,490	about US\$1,640
In Canadian dollars	about C\$1,870	about C\$2,100	about C\$2,310
In Australian dollars	about A\$1,900	about A\$2,140	about A\$2,350
In New Zealand dollars	about NZ\$2,340	about NZ\$2,630	about NZ\$2,890
In euros	about €1,180	about €1,330	about €1,460

Approximate amounts at the 19 October 2026 exchange rate. Prices are set in pounds, and you can pay in any currency you prefer.

ALONG THE WAY

What to expect



Les Eyzies



Beynac



Sarlat



YOUR HOLIDAY

At a glance

DAY	ROUTE	DISTANCE	CLIMB	OVERNIGHT
1	Arrival in Les Eyzies	–	–	Les Eyzies · Hotel Cromagnon
2	Around Les Eyzies (circular walk)	12.8 km (8 miles)	↑ 220 m (about 700 ft) ↓ 220 m (about 700 ft)	Les Eyzies · Hotel Cromagnon
3	Les Eyzies to Boyer	16.8 km (10 miles)	↑ 450 m (about 1,500 ft) ↓ 350 m (about 1,150 ft)	Boyer · Domaine de la Rhonie
4	Boyer to Beynac	17.8 km (11 miles)	↑ 340 m (about 1,100 ft) ↓ 440 m (about 1,450 ft)	Beynac · Domaine de Monrecour
5	Beynac to Vitrac	13.8 km (8.6 miles)	↑ 130 m (about 450 ft) ↓ 130 m (about 450 ft)	Vitrac · Hotel Plaisance
6	Vitrac to Sarlat	16.2 km (10 miles)	↑ 250 m (about 800 ft) ↓ 180 m (about 600 ft)	Sarlat · Hotel La Couleuvrine
7	Free day in Sarlat (optional circular walk)	Optional 8.3 km (5.2 miles)	↑ 180 m (about 600 ft) ↓ 180 m (about 600 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 hotel has a swimming pool.

Tonight: Les Eyzies · Hotel Cromagnon



Les Eyzies

DAY

2

Around Les Eyzies (circular walk)

12.8 km (8 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. 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 · Hotel Cromagnon

ELEVATION

159 m

56 m

0 km

12.8 km

DAY

3

Les Eyzies to Boyer

16.8 km (10 miles)

↑ 450 m (about 1,500 ft) ↓ 350 m (about 1,150 ft)

Dinner included

You 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

222 m

65 m

0 km

16.8 km

DAY

4

Boyer to Beynac

17.8 km (11 miles)

↑ 340 m (about 1,100 ft) ↓ 440 m (about 1,450 ft)

Dinner included

An undulating walk through shaded woods and fields brings you to the 12th-century Château de Beynac, perched on its crag above the Dordogne and the medieval village below, one of France's Plus Beaux Villages. You stay nearby in the hamlet of St Vincent de Cosse, at the lovely Domaine de Monrecour, which has a swimming pool.

Tonight: Beynac · Domaine de Monrecour



Beynac

ELEVATION

280 m

68 m

0 km

17.8 km

DAY
5

Beynac to Vitrac

13.8 km (8.6 miles)

↑ 130 m (about 450 ft) ↓ 130 m (about 450 ft)

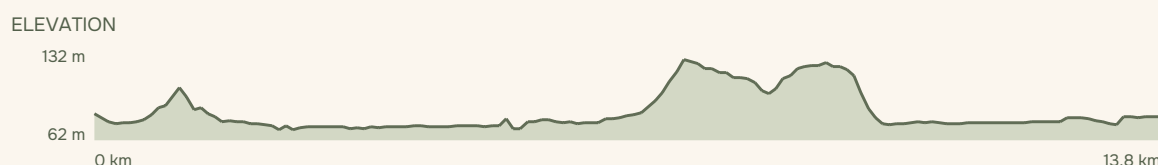
Dinner included

A day of highlights. First the hanging gardens of Marqueyssac, then across the Dordogne to the medieval Château de Castelnaud, built to face its rival at Beynac and home to a fine collection of medieval war machines. Then a gentle finish into Vitrac. Tonight's hotel has a swimming pool.

Tonight: Vitrac · Hotel Plaisance



Castelnaud



DAY
6

Vitrac to Sarlat

16.2 km (10 miles)

↑ 250 m (about 800 ft) ↓ 180 m (about 600 ft)

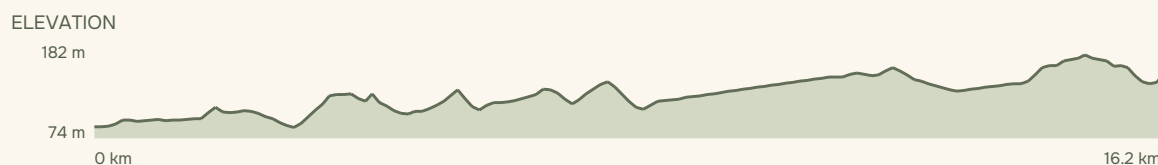
Dinner included

You pass beneath the Château de Montfort, high on its rocky ledge above the village. Destroyed and rebuilt four times, it has 800 years of turbulent history behind it. Fields and woodland then lead you into Sarlat, whose medieval streets and golden stone facades are protected by law.

Tonight: Sarlat · Hotel La Couleuvrine



Sarlat



DAY
7

Free day in Sarlat (optional circular walk)

Optional 8.3 km (5.2 miles)

↑ 180 m (about 600 ft) ↓ 180 m (about 600 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

237 m

135 m

0 km

8.3 km

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 7.4 km (4.6 miles)

↑ 200 m (about 650 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

194 m

66 m

0 km

7.4 km

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

213 m

67 m

0 km

10.7 km



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



BEFORE YOU GO

Practical information



Beynac



Castelnau



Les Eyzies

Getting there and away

By air. Bergerac is about an hour from Les Eyzies by road, Brive–Vallée de la Dordogne a little over an hour, and Bordeaux around 2 hours.

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. Les Eyzies has a small station on the line between Périgueux and Agen, with connections from Paris and Bordeaux. Sarlat, where the walk ends, has trains to Bordeaux via Bergerac.

By car. Calais to Les Eyzies is around 850 km. The walk ends in Sarlat, about half an hour from Les Eyzies, and your hotel can book a taxi back to your car.

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 5 dinners. The day-by-day shows which nights include dinner.

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

Font-de-Gaume, in Les Eyzies, is one of the very few caves with original prehistoric paintings still open to visitors. Numbers are strictly limited, so book online well before you travel.

The National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies needs no booking, and makes a good start to the week.

Your free day in Sarlat is a treat if it falls on a market day: Saturday for the big market, or Wednesday morning.



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/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](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.

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