

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2012

July 7-13

August 4-10

2013

July 6-12

August 3-9

Self-guided and custom trips also available and can start any day. Call or email for details.

Trip Size

8-12 participants

Total Days:

7 days/ 6 nights

Arrive/Depart:

Souillac / La Roque Gageac

Activity Level:

15 km (10 miles) daily average

Terrain:

Some days may be longer and require walking on hilly and rocky paths. Some days are as short as 10 km (6 miles)

Dordogne, Walking

Walking along the most beautiful river in France

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 guided tour in the southwest serves as a delightful introduction to France, but also suits experienced adventurers.

Itinerary



Getting there :

Souillac: 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 La Roque Gageac, from where you'll need to take a taxi to Souillac to catch a train to leave the area.

DAY 1:

Souillac - 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:

Carsac-Aillac - 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:

Carsac - 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.

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Cost

Land Cost (current year):

US \$1850

Includes 6B/2L/5D

Single Supplement:

US \$440

DAY 4:

Domme - 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:

La Roque-Gageac - 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:

La Roque-Gageac - 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.

What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 6 nights lodging
- all breakfasts, 2 lunches, and all dinners but 1
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map and route instructions
- all baggage transportation
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at **604.730.1247**

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Accommodations



La Vieille Auberge, Souillac

This elegant 17th century manor house and 13th century Old Towers that comprise Les Vieilles Tours are set in a large, tranquil park with lovely gardens and pool, and the charming rooms are furnished with period furniture. Relax in this beautiful locale and enjoy a delicious dish carefully prepared in the kitchen.



Le Relais de Touron, Carsac

This hotel is located in the peaceful surroundings of a large park. This quaint 18-room Relais offers warm hospitality and fine regional cuisine. There is a lovely pool and gardens to enjoy along with a marvelous panoramic view overlooking the Dordogne and its cliffs.



L'Esplanade, Domme

Located on a rocky outcropping in the picturesque medieval town of Domme, this Perigordian house directly overlooks the Dordogne with magnificent views of the Dordogne valley and river from the terrace. L'Esplanade boasts stylish salons and a Michelin rated restaurant that specializes in truffles.



Hotel de la Belle Etoile, La Roque Gageac

Situated in one of the most beautiful villages in France, all rooms at this hotel enjoy views over the river. Three generations of inn-keepers ensure that the welcome is warm. A short stroll from the hotel is one of our favourite restaurants in France, La Plume D'Oie.