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# Lot Cycling Holidays



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## Dordogne History, Mystery and Chateaux



Cycling Holidays



- Start Dates
- May 30th
  - June 20th
  - July 4th
  - July 18th
  - Sept 12th

### Dordogne - History, Mystery & Chateaux

Price: £995/1099€

The Dordogne History, Mystery and Chateaux cycling tour allows you to explore and discover this land of amazing prehistoric mystery and wonder and the fascinating history of the middle ages in magnificent mediaeval chateaux, hill-top castles and pretty, perfectly preserved bastide towns.

On this cycling holiday you stay with us for the whole week, so you can relax, unpack and unwind from the moment you arrive. Then, each day from the comfort of 'home', you can explore a fresh part of the widely varying terrain of this stunning region. From lush river valley to gently rolling countryside, to shady green forest and rocky limestone *cause*, our routes sweep the meandering and undulating quiet backroads to reveal amazing new vistas around every bend.

The following itinerary provides an outline of what to expect. All distances can be reduced or lengthened according to your preferences and you can always opt to take a day off and have a rest from cycling if you wish - the beauty of a single-base holiday!

### [Customer reviews](#)

### Itinerary

Day 1  
(Sunday)  
Welcome

We meet you at either Sarlat or Gourdon rail station and drive you to Mas de Flory, your home for the week.  
Relax and unwind with a glass of fizz while you settle in and later enjoy a long, lazy and delicious gourmet [meal](#) - 4 courses with plenty of wine and coffee to finish &ndash; and meet your fellow guests for the week.





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**Day 2  
(Monday)  
Spectacular  
sites along the  
River  
Dordogne.**

After a substantial buffet breakfast you'll be fitted with your bike and have time to check that everything is comfortable before setting off at your leisure for your first cycle tour.

This is a mostly flat route following the river valley to give you a nice gentle introduction to your cycling holiday week.

Fairytale chateaux, open countryside and riverside towns greet you in the Dordogne.

As a cyclist, you'll want beautiful scenery - and the Dordogne certainly delivers. Discover picturesque villages perched on the river banks such as the spectacular, historic riverside settlement of [La Roque Gageac](#), the magnificent Chateau de [Beynac](#) towering high on the cliff top and pretty [Domme](#), perched high above the river and beautifully preserved from the 12th century.

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**Day 3  
(Tuesday)  
Monpazier -  
Belves -  
Castelnaud**

Today you ride quiet, sweeping backroads across to Monpazier, a typical bastide town founded in the 13th century by King Edward 1st; it has remained remarkably unchanged during its seven hundred year long existence.

Next you'll cycle to Belves, a seven-belfried medieval city perched high on a hilltop which was fortified in the 11th century because of its strategic position. The ancient market square is today surrounded by bars and cafes and makes a great lunch stop.

After lunch you'll make your way to Castelnaud with its dominant medieval chateau built across the river to face its rival the Chateau de Beynac, which you visited yesterday.

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**Day 4  
(Wednesday)  
Explore ancient  
Sarlats with its  
beautifully  
preserved  
medieval  
centre.**

Today you will again be transported back to the middle ages as you visit Sarlat, one of the best preserved mediaeval cities in France. Explore the streets around the cathedral and the streets to the north of the old town - you will soon become lost in the maze of narrow lanes, with something new to see around every corner.

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**Day 5  
(Thursday)  
Enchanting  
Rocamadour**

Cycle through the stunning regional park, le Causse du Quercy, through valley roads with spectacular views en route to amazing Rocamadour.

Carved dramatically into the limestone cliffs, this ancient village clings precariously to the hillside, presenting a visually magical site. It has been a destination for religious pilgrims for the last thousand years and is now the site for a monastery as well as a point on the pilgrimage to St Jacques de Compostella in

northern Spain. You'll have plenty of time to explore before we drive you back to Mas de Flory where you can relax before another great meal.

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**Day 6  
(Friday)  
Lacave to  
Padirac and  
pretty villages**

Some of the most beautiful natural scenery of the week awaits you today as you cycle further north in the Dordogne. Lacave is your first stop and in this pretty village you could visit the impressive caves with their underground lakes, stalactites and stalagmites. Also included on this cycle tour is the Gouffre de Padirac with its stunning underground chasm and the lovely typically french country villages of Carennac, Loubressac and Autoire. The quiet undulating roads sweep across the stunning landscape revealing breathtaking panoramic vistas at every turn.

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**Day 7  
(Saturday)  
Au revoir**

After a leisurely breakfast we'll drive you to Gourdon rail station or Bergerac airport to meet your homeward connection. We wish you *bonne route* and hope you enjoyed your stay - *a bientot!*

**Cycling holidays start on a Sunday and finish the following Saturday and include all of the following:**

- Accommodation as stated in '[Where you'll stay](#)'.
  - Breakfasts and 4-course evening [meals](#) with wine
  - Bike hire, routes and maps and full cycling support as stated in '[Cycling Tours](#)'.
  - Transfers to and from Gourdon rail station or Bergerac airport, as required
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