

Bike Tours France



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Start Dates

2011

May 1st

June 26th

July 24th

Sept 4th

Lot & Dordogne Discovery Bike Tour France

Price: £995 / 1195€ / US\$ 1645

7 days/6 nights

The Lot & Dordogne Discovery bike tour allows you to explore and discover both the beautiful sweeping landscapes of the Lot and the rugged, dramatic cliffs and valleys of the Dordogne.

You will have the opportunity to explore the amazing prehistoric mystery and the fascinating history of the middle ages in magnificent mediaeval chateaux, hill-top castles and pretty, perfectly preserved bastide towns. 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.

On this cycling tour you stay with us for the whole week, so you can relax, unpack and unwind from the moment you arrive.

The following itinerary provides an outline of what to expect. We are very flexible and 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!

[Email us to check availability or find out more](#)

[Book Now](#)

[Guest reviews](#)



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Itinerary

Day 1 (Sunday) Welcome

We meet you at either Bergerac airport 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 and meet your fellow guests for the week.

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.

Your first day takes you into the Dordogne to discover fairytale chateaux, historic riverside towns and dramatic cliff-top views. 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, 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.

Cycling distance is approximately 27m/43k

Day 3 (Tuesday) Vers and Lot river valleys to St Cirq Lapopie

Today is a fantastic sweeping downhill route through the Lot - until you get to the end, when you climb to the **beautiful village of St Cirq Lapopie** - which is absolutely worth the effort!

You'll start by cycling east across stunning countryside and along lovely wide, shady, forest roads before joining the Vers valley to cycle south towards the River Lot. This road has stunning views as you sweep between the high limestone rocky outcrops that line the valley.

You then join the Lot valley and cycle to the pretty small towns of Vers, St Gery and Bouzies before crossing the river and climbing up to St Cirq Lapopie. **St Cirq is officially one of the most beautiful villages in France** and is definitely worthy of this accolade. Its maze of steeply sloping, narrow, cobbled streets is lined with pretty, interesting, old houses, whose stone or wood frontages date from the 13th to 16th centuries.

You will have time to enjoy a well-earned beer at one

of the many cafes as well as to explore this lovely village. As we return home you'll have the option to visit the Grottes de Pechmerle to see the prehistoric cave paintings of early man.

Cycling distance is approximately 24m/39k

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

Today you will again be transported back to the middle ages as you visit Sarlat in the Dordogne, one of the best preserved medieval cities in France.

To get there you'll cycle through pretty sleepy villages and quiet countryside as well as on a cycle path that follows the old railway cutting along the Marcillande valley. It makes for a nice easy relaxing cycle route with virtually no traffic.

Have lunch in one of Sarlat's many restaurants and cafes and then explore the maze of narrow lanes and ancient streets around the cathedral and medieval *cit *, with amazing sights to see around every corner.

We'll drive you home at the end of the afternoon for another delicious dinner.

Cycling distance is approximately 19m/32k

**Day 5
(Thursday)
Enchanting
Rocamadour**

We're exploring another part of the Lot today. We'll cycle through the stunning regional park, *le Causse du Quercy*, along valley roads and undulating sweeps 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 Jaques 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.

Cycling distance is approximately 30m/49k

**Day 6
(Friday)
Lot Valley,
vistas and
villages - and
wine tasting!**

Today you'll cycle along quiet, leafy backroads, again following a mostly flat route to the small town of Catus, where you can browse the quaint small town and perhaps buy some fresh provisions for a lazy picnic lunch by the lovely *Lac Vert*.

In the afternoon you'll continue southwards and make your way towards the **Lot River Valley** and the pretty town of Luzech. You'll get there via the amazing views from the Col de Crayssac and the spectacular downhill, switchback sweep of the route de Cevenne - a thrilling ride!

You can then meander through the AOC Cahors vineyards (along the **Cahors Wine Trail and Lot Valley Cycle Route**) and the chateaux of Caix, Parnac, Caillac and into pretty Douelle. Here we'll meet at a riverside bar before driving to a chateau for some wine tasting and then returning to Mas de Flory for your final fabulous dinner.

Cycling distance is approximately 29m/46k

**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!*

Biking tours start on a Sunday and finish the following Saturday and include all of the following:

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



[Youtube Slideshow of this tour](#)

[HD Video of Rocamadour](#)

See our other biking tour:
[Lot Valley, Vistas and Villages](#)



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