

Dordogne remains hugely popular

Historically the most popular area holiday destination within France, the Dordogne in the south-west continues to receive a great number of visitors from all over the world and it is not hard to understand why.

The Dordogne is hard to beat as far as quality of life is concerned. Beautiful countryside with a low population density, lack of pollution, a temperate climate, fantastic food and wine, and welcoming people are just the beginning. Flanked by the Lot river to the east and the vineyards of Gironde and St-Emilion to the west, the area is known for its prehistoric sites, natural beauty, and its world class gastronomy that includes confit de canard, truffles and fine cheeses.



The Périgord

The Périgord is a former French province which corresponds roughly to the current Dordogne *département*, located in the northern part of the region of Aquitaine. It is divided into four areas called the Périgord Vert in the north (named after the verdant landscape), Périgord Blanc in the centre (clay soil), Périgord Pourpre in the southwest (named after the colour of the vineyards in the autumn) and Périgord Noir in the southeast (truffle country).

Traditionally the north of the region (the Périgord Vert) offers a more rural environment with fewer larger towns. The most famous part of the Dordogne is the south east (the Périgord Noir) and has built a strong reputation for excellent tourism and visitor attractions as well as being where the most beautiful châteaux can be found.

Famous towns include Domme, Sarlat, Beynac and St-Cyprien. The capital city of Périgueux with its charming medieval centre offers a wealth of bars and restaurants, all located in the sleepy cobbled squares and quiet streets. Other large towns include Bergerac and Sarlat, whilst there are lots of good-sized market towns located along the Dordogne valley (Lalinde, Bergerac, St Foy la Grande.)