



# The Fairy tale Tour of medieval Castles and Bastides along the Dordogne Valley



**4 days  
3 nights**  
(320 kms)



## ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND

« God wanted to sprinkle the Kingdom of France with castles. He left with a heavy bag on his shoulder and spread handfuls of castles around. After traveling many provinces, passing through the Perigord, he noticed that his huge bag was torn, so he decided to shake it over the hills of the Dordogne. And so much so that no country has been wealthier in castles and manors. »







# Day 1 (85 kms)

10:00 a.m.

## ➤ CHÂTEAU DE MONTAIGNE

A leap in time and here we are at a beautiful castle of the nineteenth century inspiration Violet Leduc with beautiful slate, a mix of medieval styles, Renaissance and Gothic mastered with care.

In 1885, the building was destroyed by fire, the daughter of Pierre Magne, Marie Thirion Mautauban, rebuilt it a year later. The current castle therefore dates from 1886.

The Montaigne Tower is a registered historic monument of the 14th century. It is an important place of pilgrimage because it is here, at the doors of Bergerac and Saint-Emilion, in Saint-Michel-de-Montaigne, that Montaigne spent « the most of the days of his life, and most hours of the day » to meditate, think and write his Essays.

You will enjoy a guided tour of the library and the private castle, ending with wine-tasting. (English).

*Lunch in the surroundings (not included).*



2:00 p.m.

## ➤ CHÂTEAU DE MONBAZILLAC



Listed as a historic monument on 20 February 1941, the Château boasts a singular architectural style cleverly combining elements borrowed from Medieval architecture and others showing the influence of the times, the Renaissance.

The Château is a symbol of the Bergerac region and has stood proudly since the end of the 16th century when the quality of its wines was well known far beyond the borders of Aquitaine. This constancy is remarkable in a region where wars, peasant revolts and revolution hardly allowed a moment's peace for the aristocratic properties dotted about the landscape.

Today, the Monbazillac castle is still world-wide known for its wine.

You will enjoy a guided private tour of the castle and a moment to taste the Monbazillac wine. (English)



4:00 p.m.

## ➤ CHÂTEAU DE LANQUAIS

This magnificent building combines aspects of a fortified medieval castle with a Renaissance stately home. The oldest part dates from the 12th century. The towers, the battlemented parapets and the machicolations provide a fine contrast with the elegant Renaissance decor. Furnished apartments, complete with intricately sculptured fireplaces, can be visited, and a permanent exhibition gives a picture of life during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance period. The castle is named the « unfinished Louvre of the Périgord ».

The castle belongs to the same family since 1732. Mrs Bertaud de Brandois, the actual owner will welcome you.

Then, you will enjoy a guided tour of this beautiful castle. (English)

*Dinner and night in St Nexans or Bergerac.*



## Day 2 (106 kms)

### ➤ STOP AT BEAUMONT-DU-PÉRIGORD

Begin the day with a morning stroll in Beaumont-du-Périgord.

The 13th century bastide of Beaumont du Perigord was built in 1272 by Edward I, King of England.

Beaumont inevitably sends you back to the Middle Ages, with a central square surrounded by cornices, a late 13th - early 14th century fortified church in the English Gothic style, narrow, fortified houses, and Luzier's Gateway, classified as an « Historical Monument. »



10:00 a.m.

### ➤ BASTIDE DE MONPAZIER

The 13th century bastide of Monpazier, an authentic jewel of medieval architecture, is considered as the most beautiful and perfect of the 300 bastides of the south-west. In 1991, the bastide of Monpazier, classified as « one of the most beautiful villages of France » was raised to the rank of « Grand site national » in conjunction with Biron and Capdrot, highlighting this unique architectural and urban heritage.

You will enjoy a private guided visit of Monpazier followed by a walnut wine aperitif. (English)

*Lunch in the surroundings (not included).*

2:30 p.m.

### ➤ CHÂTEAU DE BIRON

As the seat of one of the four baronies of the Périgord (Bourdeilles, Beynac, Biron, Mareuil) this fortress has undergone many architectural changes during its time. It was owned by 14 generations of the Gontaut-Biron family until the State took it over in the 20th century.

Biron is a lesson of architecture showing different buildings still testifying the former power of the Gontaut-Biron. But the castle also highlights the amazing talent and fantastic inspiration of the best builders of all ages.

The highpoint of the visit is without question the 18th century twenty-two meters long vaulted kitchens.

Many films have been shot here, using the castle as a scenic background.

You will enjoy a guided private tour of the castle (English).



4:00 p.m.

### ➤ BELVÈS

Belvès, one of the « most beautiful villages of France », is situated on the top of a hill. The « castrum » is a witness of its development in the 11th century. Belvès is a medieval town perched on a rocky spur above the Nauze Valley. It includes 7 bell towers and although it endured invasions and wars, it has miraculously managed to preserve superb relics of its built heritage. This fortified place is still noticeable.

There is a lot of heritage to discover : troglodytic houses inhabited from the 13th to the 18th century, Belvès Castle (16th century), the church Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption or Notre-Dame de Montcuq (13th century), the Hall (15th century), a neo-gothic style house built in 1882...

You will enjoy a private visit of the village and its troglodytic shelters. (English)



*Dinner and night in Trémolat or Lalinde.*

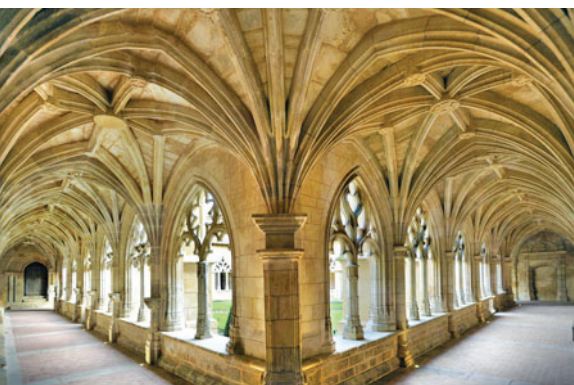


## Day 3 (75 kms)

### ➤ MORNING STROLL IN TRÉMOLAT

Situated between the plain and the hills, Trémolat is above all famous for its horseshoe bend on the river known as the « Cingle ». 200 meters wide and 10km long, it is a true wonder.

Visit the 12th-century Saint-Hilaire Chapel, renovated by the locals and featuring stained glass by Paul Becker.



10:00 a.m.

### ➤ CLOITRE DE CADOUIN

Cadouin Abbey was founded in 1115 by Géraud de Salles and affiliated to the Cistercian order in 1119. The abbey soon became a powerful and prestigious sanctuary of pilgrimage thanks to a remarkable hollow: the St Suaire of Cadouin. Monastic activity ended in 1790.

Registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site for being a stop-over on the road to Santiago de Compostela, the abbey is a masterpiece of religious architecture in the Périgord.

You will enjoy a private visit of the cloister of the abbey (English).

*Lunch in the surroundings (not included).*

### ➤ STOP AT URVAL

The 116 inhabitants of Urval live in a woody area. The village illustrates the beautiful authenticity of the Périgord. The « Bessède », which is the forest surrounding the place, is representative of the wilderness of the Dordogne.



3:30 p.m.

### ➤ PROMENADE EN GABARE

You are invited for an hour's trip along the river in an authentic reproduction of an 18th century boat named the gabare, a flat-bottomed boat. This is the perfect opportunity to relax and discover the beautiful fauna and flora of the Dordogne.

The hostesses, captains and guides will be happy to welcome you and make your river trip an unforgettable moment of escape... and culture! (English)

7:00 p.m.

### ➤ CHÂTEAU DE CASTELNAUD

Situated in the middle of the Périgord Noir, the castle of Castelnaud is built on a rocky outcrop. It offers a magnificent panoramic view on the valley of the Dordogne. Founded in the 12th century, it is a perfect example of a medieval fortress. Today, it houses an important collection of weapons and armors. On the bastion, the most powerful siege machines of the Middle Ages have been recreated and placed in attack positions. Since 1985, the castle has become a famous place to display the art of warfare in the Middle Ages.

You will enjoy a private visit at 7 p.m. (English)

*Dinner and night in Vitrac or Sarlat.*



# Day 4 (55 kms)

2:30 p.m. ➤ **SARLAT**

Inhabited since Gallo-Roman times, the city of Sarlat started to expand from the end of the 8th century under the reign of Pepin le Bref and Charlemagne when the Benedictines established a monastery there.

The town suffered from the Norman invasions and then from the Hundred Years War owing to its position as a frontier region between the kingdoms of France and England.

Next to the splendid gothic buildings, many private mansions and houses were built in the Renaissance period, like the "Maison de La Boetie" where the philosopher, Montaigne dear friend, was born : both were the most famous humanists of the 16th century.

Sarlat became a prosperous town throughout the 16th-18th centuries and definitely entered modernity in the 19th c.

In the middle of the 20th c. the Theatre Festival was founded and the typical architecture of the town was saved thanks to the Malraux Law which enabled a large programme of restauration.

You will enjoy a private guided tour of this beautiful town. (English)



*Lunch in the surroundings (not included).*

3:00 p.m.

## ➤ **LES JARDINS DE MARQUEYSSAC**

The castle of Marqueyssac is surrounded by romantic and picturesque gardens. Planted during the 19th century, boxwoods constitute the main theme of the walks. They are set-off by an arrangement showing great imagination and full of movement, at the expense of symmetry and regularity. Its layout with its sinuous paths, the roundness and rolling aspect of the boxwood give Marqueyssac softness and romanticism, contributing to the harmony that the gardens have with the hills in the landscape of the Dordogne Valley.

Individual visit with a guide book in English.

5:00 p.m.

## ➤ **CHÂTEAU DES MILANDES**

Built in 1489 by Lord François de Caumont, this enchanting castle represents a fine example of Renaissance architecture with beautiful gothic features.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Charles Auguste Clavier bought the property and began renovation work, adding gardens, towers and balconies.

Josephine Baker buys the castle in 1936. The famous dancer also played an active part in the resistance and fought against racism. From 1955, Josephine founds a "Global Village, the Capital of Universal Fraternity" with her husband Jo Bouillon. First 2, then 6, then 8, and finally 12 children of different nationalities and religions. Too generous and certainly too naive, Josephine was useless at managing a business. The castle is sold at auction in 1968.

The owner of the castle will welcome you for a guided tour (in English) followed by an aperitif in the garden.

*End the trip with a beautiful sight on Montfort Castle, situated next to a meander of the Dordogne river, and take the time to explore Domme, a village perched on a breathtakingly high cliff.*



## End of the tour

### Included :

- 3 days / 2 nights in half-board (double room basis).
- Individual visits in English and personalized welcome by castle's owners.
- Tour available on Guidigo app (AppStore and Google Play).
- 2 extra nights in Bordeaux Hôtel 4\*.

### Not-included :

- Lunch, drinks.
- Transport : Possibility private cab driver from your hotel or the airport.
- Insurance.
- Personal expenses.