



# Follow the authentic trail of the Master architects of the prehistoric and magic underground world in the Vezere valley



**3 days  
2 nights**  
(70 kms)





# Dordogne Périgord

← Bordeaux  
✈ 1h30

→ Toulouse  
✈ 2h30



## Route de la Préhistoire

Circuit 3 jours/2 nuits - 70 km



# Day 1 (27 kms)

9:30 a.m.

## International Prehistory Centre *Les Eyzies-de-Tayac*



The Centre for International Prehistory based in Les Eyzies de Tayac aims to highlight and make the heritage of the Vézère Valley accessible to all audiences. 15 prehistoric sites in this valley are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This centre along with the National Museum of Prehistory is an opening key to the heritage of the Dordogne. Its facilities spread over a 3000m<sup>2</sup> area will enable you to better understand the different sites you will visit afterwards.

Guided visit in English.



11:00 a.m.

## The National Prehistory Museum *Les Eyzies-de-Tayac*



Since its creation at the beginning of the 20th century, the National Museum of Prehistory has drawn academics and the general public alike. It combines the functions of museum, study and research centre, memorial to prehistory and nerve centre for the constantly evolving body of knowledge and information about prehistory.

Its story starts in 1913, when Denis Peyrony, a tireless researcher involved in the discovery of numerous sites, persuaded the State to purchase the ruins of the Château des Eyzies as an on-site location for the conservation, display and study of the archaeological heritage of the Vézère Valley.

The site has expanded to include the National Prehistory Museum with contemporary architecture in an exceptional setting: clinging onto a monumental cliff, the museum opens out onto a semicircle of hills overlooking the Vézère Valley, which is a veritable European "Valley of Mankind", named a World Heritage Site for the richness of its Paleolithic remains. Here, human history has left an unparalleled imprint, dating back tens of thousands of years.

Guided tour in English.





# Day 1 (27 kms)

2:00 p.m.

## La Grotte du sorcier *Saint-Cirq*



The cave of Saint-Cirq is a prehistoric site, decorated during the Magdalenian period. The cave entrance is in the middle of the village, next to a beautiful bamboo forest. On the cave walls, prehistoric men engraved animals (bison, horses, ibexes etc.), enigmatic geometric symbols and, most remarkably, 3 human images. One of them is the world-renowned «sorcerer of St Cirq». In the Middle Ages, men dug into the cliff to create shelters from enemies and bandits. Private guided tour in English.

4:00 p.m.

## Gouffre de Proumeyssac *Le Bugue sur Vézère*



Already famous in the 18th century through a number of terrifying legends, the Proumeyssac chasm was not actually explored until 1907. Known as the «Cathedral of Crystal», Proumeyssac is currently the largest subterranean space open to the public in Périgord.

A tunnel provides easy access to this vast and spectacular underground vault; the walls are adorned with a multitude of closely-packed and exceptionally beautiful crystal formations. The new light show adds to the originality of this site.

The tour includes a descent into the chasm in a rotating basket. (Tours in English)

Dinner and night in Les Eyzies.





# Day 2 (12 kms)

10:00 a.m.

## Gisement de Laugerie Haute *Les Eyzies-de-Tayac*



Under the big cliff overlooking the right bank of the Vézère river, upstream of Les Eyzies, the prehistoric site of Laugerie-Haute is the first of a large number of deposits found in the Vézère Valley.

About 200 meters long, this shelter, one of the largest in the region, includes traces of occupation dating back to 25,000 BC. A lot of flint tools, beautiful bone items, art objects and artefacts were discovered on the site and are exhibited at the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies.



11:00 a.m.

## Abri du Poisson *Les Eyzies-de-Tayac*

The «cave of the fish» is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its name comes from the engraving of a salmon, about a metre long, on a wall of the cave. Discovered in 1912, it is encircled by a sort of frame following an attempt at robbery in 1913.

It is remarkable because there are only around ten prehistoric fish representations anywhere in the world. This one dates back to around 25,000 BC, making it the oldest representation of a fish ever found.

On the ceiling of the same cave there is the imprint of a hand, discovered in 1975.





# Day 2 (12 kms)

2:30 p.m.

## Gisement de Laugerie Basse *Les Eyzies-de-Tayac*

The shelter of Laugerie-Basse has been inhabited by our ancestors at different periods of history and especially by the Cro-Magnon at around 15 000 years BC.

The large amount of archaeological deposits discovered here show a cultural and artistic activity unrivalled anywhere in Europe.

The site consists of two rock shelters: the Abri of Marseilles and the Abri Classique.

The decorated objects found here perfectly illustrate the artistic level of the late prehistoric period.

Near the Abri des Marseilles is a museum with information about mobile art and a film about geology and archaeology.



4:00 p.m.

## Abri Cro-Magnon *Les Eyzies-de-Tayac*

Visit the site that gave its name to prehistoric man, Cro-Magnon, following the original discovery of prehistoric human remains, subsequently identified as Homo sapiens, during road works in 1868.

This museum enables visitors to interact, understand and experiment. It presents the discovery but also tries to deconstruct stereotypes in a number of interactive ways.

Dinner and night in Les Eyzies.





# Day 3 (25 kms)

10:00 a.m.

## Castel-Merle *Sergeac*

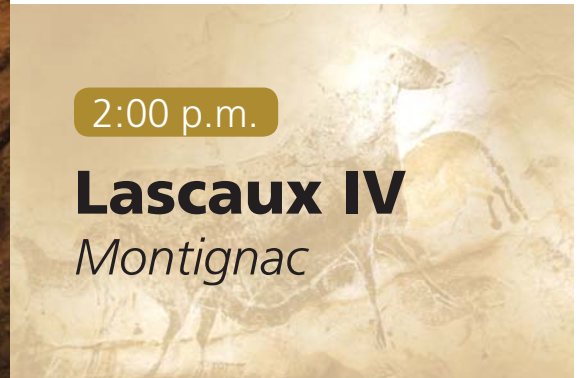
Castel-merle includes 10 wonderful rock shelters inhabited by Neanderthal man 85,000 years ago and by Cro-Magnon man 35,000 years ago. It is one of the most important deposits in Europe. In 2012, the site of Castel-Merle was in the spotlight when American researchers announced that they had dated an engraved stone to 37,000 years ago. Castel-Merle hosts one of the oldest forms of cave art in Europe.

Visit of the prehistoric site, of the ornated shelters and of the museum in English. Workshops about everyday life in prehistoric times.



2:00 p.m.

## Lascaux IV *Montignac*



The world-famous Lascaux cave, sometimes called «the Sistine chapel of cave art», was discovered in 1940, when Marcel Ravidat found a cavity on Lascaux Hill. The Lascaux cave is the finest of all prehistoric painted caves made by Cro-Magnon men.

After the Second World War, Lascaux was open to the public for several years until 1963. Around 1,500 visitors a day came to visit the site but the carbon dioxide in the human breath soon began to damage the prehistoric cave paintings.

The original Lascaux cave is closed and under close surveillance in order to preserve this site, which is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

However, the Lascaux cave has been entirely and meticulously reproduced – same contours, same paintings, same techniques and same pigments. Lascaux II enables everybody to discover the prehistoric masterpieces for themselves.

Today, you can visit the International Cave Painting Centre of Montignac-Lascaux: Lascaux IV. The Lascaux cave in its entirety is the beating heart of the center.

The complex is centred on the reconstruction of the Lascaux cave and on the use of new imaging and virtual reality technology used in the reproduction process.

It is a must-see for tourists.



## End of the tour

### Included :

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

### Not-included :

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