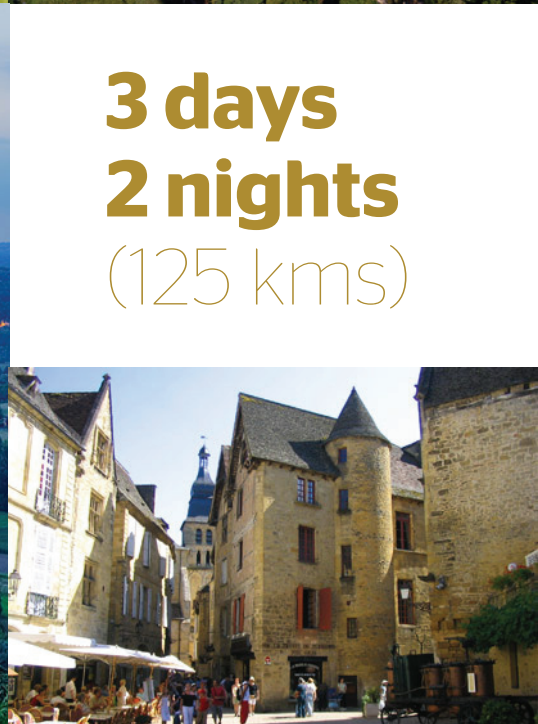




# The Fairy tale Tour of medieval Castles and Bastides along the Dordogne Valley



**3 days  
2 nights**  
(125 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 (27 kms)

10:00 a.m.

## ➤ CHÂTEAU DE PUYMARTIN

This castle built in the twelfth century was destroyed during the Hundred Years War (1358), and rebuilt around 1450 by Radulphe de Saint-Clar who lived there. The legend of the White Lady dates back to this time, tracing the story of Thérèse de Saint-Clar, who was locked up for 15 years by her jealous husband in the northern tower of the castle, and whose body was walled up in the tower after her death.

According to legend, she still haunts the castle around midnight, walking around the tower, the staircases and even along the ramparts.

Puymartin castle houses family belongings : furniture, tapestries, paintings and a mythological chamber, unique in Périgord.

The owner of the castle will welcome you for a private guided tour (in English).



## 11:30 a.m. ➤ LES CABANES DU BREUIL

These huts built in dry stone and «lauzes» (local stone) date back to the 19th century, when they were built as farm outbuildings. Today, they form a 37-acre farm and museum including artisan workshops such as bread baking.

They are a fine example of Périgord's rural tradition and its strong identity.

The owner will take you on a guided tour (in English).

*Lunch in the surroundings (not included).*

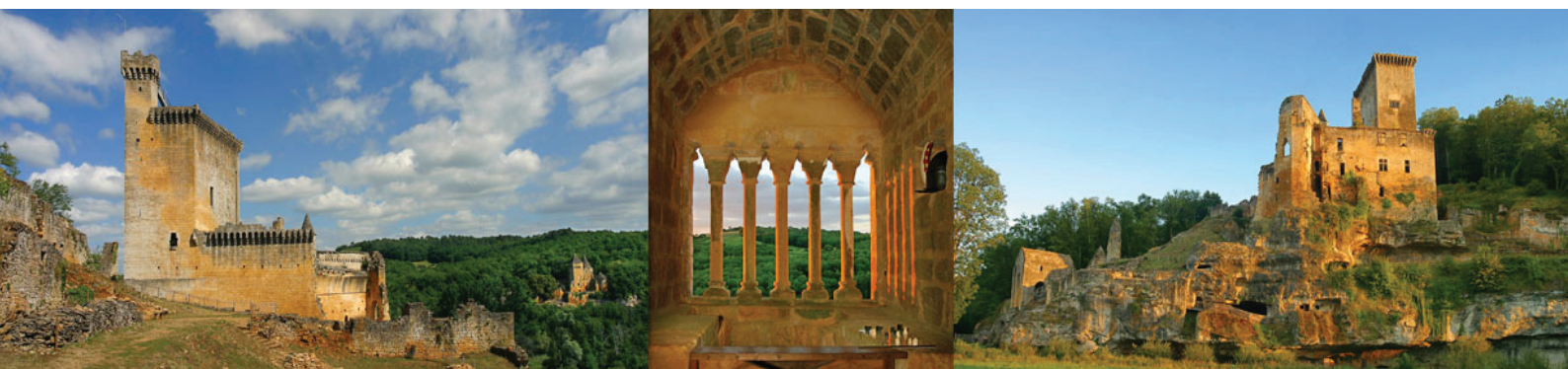
## 3:30 p.m. ➤ CHÂTEAU DE COMMARQUE

The Château de Commarque was built in the 12th century by the Abbot of Sarlat. Extensions and reinforcements were added over the centuries. Generations of some of Dordogne's best-known dynasties have lived there, including the families Beynac, Cendrieux, Commarque, Escars, Gondrix and La Chapelle.

The same valley is home to troglodyte dwellings and a cave discovered in August 1915. The Commarque site testifies to at least 15,000 years of human habitation.

Hubert de Commarque, owner of the castle, will welcome you for a guided tour of the castle and of the medieval village.

*Dinner and night in Tamniès (3\*) or Coly (4\*).*





# Day 2 (85 kms)

## 10:00 a.m. ➤ EYRIGNAC GARDENS

These 10 hectares of "green" gardens, in the heart of the Black Périgord are resplendent in all shades of green: yews, boxes, hornbeams, and cypresses are the main species of the garden.

The heart and soul of Eyrignac are its extraordinary topiaries : veritable sculptures of green rooms, boxwood embroidery, French-style parterre... An infinite variety of forms sit in harmony with the architectural lines of the Manor house and the protected estate of 500 acres of forest that surrounds it.

These gardens blend the classical, structured symmetry of French gardens with the flow and fantasy of the Italian Renaissance...

You can enjoy a private guided tour (in English) of these very special gardens.



11:30 a.m.

## ➤ STOP AT SAINT-GENIÈS

Discover Saint-Geniès, a typical town of the Périgord.

*Then, take the road to Sarlat where you will find a place to eat. Lunch not included.*

## 2:00 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.





# Day 2 (85 kms)

3:30 p.m.

## ➤ ROAD OF MONTFORT'S HORSESHOE BEND ON THE RIVER

Discover Montfort's horseshoe bend on the river, known as the « cingle ». Look at the view on the meander and the castle.



5:00 p.m.

## ➤ PROMENADE EN GABARE

After the guided tour of Sarlat, 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!

7:00 p.m.

## ➤ CHÂTEAU DE CASTELNAUD

Situated in the middle of Périgord Noir, the castle of Castelnaud is built on a rocky outcrop and offers a magnificent panoramic view over the Dordogne valley. Founded in the 12th century, it is a perfect example of a medieval fortress.

Today it houses an important collection of weapons and armour. On the battlements, the most powerful siege machines of the Middle Ages have been recreated and placed in attack positions. The castle has built a reputation over the last 30 years for its representation of the art of warfare in the Middle Ages.

You will enjoy a private visit at 7p.m.

*Dinner and night at St Vincent de Cosse (3\*) or Sarlat (4\*).*





## Day 3 (12 kms)

### ➤ FLIGHT IN A HOT AIR BALLOON, STARTING POINT IN THE VALLEY OF THE DORDOGNE

Begin the day with a beautiful view over the Dordogne from a hot air balloon.  
It's time to discover the landscape from far above, lost from city noise and crowds.  
You will uncover a colorful and surprising world of rivers, castles and nature from a different perspective.



*Lunch in the surroundings (not included).*



2:00 p.m.

### ➤ CHÂTEAU DE BEYNAC

Perched on a cliff – a position whose value had been appreciated since the Bronze Age - Beynac Castle is situated in a place of perfect natural protection.

Founded in the twelfth century, it is rich in history and culture, standing as a powerful fortress through the wars and crusades of the Périgord region; it was on the border between the French and English kingdoms during the Hundred Years War.

Guided tour of the castle.

4:00 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 Clavierie 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 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.