

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

Dordogne Valley

Bordeaux Vineyards & Southwestern France

CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

TRAVEL + LEISURE

Castles, Vineyards & Cave Paintings

Everything we love best about France is abundant in the scenic southwest. Great wine? Bordeaux vintners coax remarkable reds from their limestone hillsides—and we taste our way through their treasures. History? The Vezere River Valley's cave paintings are some of the earliest signs of modern man. Culture? From the 13th to the 15th centuries, the Dordogne was the border between France and England; the fortifications, châteaux and villages built so close together for defense now make for lovely, compact walks. Along the way, we spend time with artisans, tradesmen and even a truffle hunter. And the lifestyle? Think of yourself at one of the loveliest inns we've ever discovered, strolling by your 13th century millpond before dining on foie gras and a country stew by candlelight. If you love to lose yourself in the life of the places you visit, this is the perfect experience for you.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

→ WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. At your option, up to 2 to 4 hours of walking per day, with a mini-van in support.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

Bordeaux / St. Emilion

From the UNESCO World Heritage City of Bordeaux, you'll make your way to St Emilion. This picturesque town, also a World Heritage site, is a charming tangle of narrow streets, exactly what you'd imagine an ancient wine-making center to look like. Many of the vineyards here sit on steep hillsides of limestone or crowd up against the small villages that dot the countryside. Enjoy a guided walk through the vineyards, taking in the picture-perfect views and learning about local wine-making traditions that make these wines so highly prized. Then it's into the hillsides with the winemaker, to the caves where in these cool, musky depths, you'll sample some of the region's wines at a tasting.

Later, explore the historic and scenic town on foot and at eye level during a guided walk. As you know from this morning, St. Emilion is one of the most renowned centers for red Bordeaux wines. (The Romans first planted vines here in the 2nd century.) But it's not all about wine here, as St. Emilion is equally famous for its macaron cookies. You'll get the opportunity to visit a fragrant bakery to see how they're made (and sample the delicious treats).

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: LES EYZIES

DAY 2 »

Domme / Castelnaud

Following breakfast, you'll journey into the Dordogne region to visit the stunning gardens of Château de Marqueyssac. From its prominent position on a cliff overlooking the Dordogne River, you'll see on your countryside walk four of the famed castles of the area, including Castelnaud, Beynac and Fayrac. Once the country house of the pope in the 18th century, it is said that the pontiff sat in a seat carved out of stone for him at Marqueyssac and surveyed the river valley. Seeing an opening in the landscape without a church, he commissioned one to be built in St. Julien, where it still stands.

In time for lunch, you'll arrive amid the honey-colored stone of the houses and fortifications of Domme, the most famous and well-preserved of the bastides. From here, set out on a scenic footpath that leads down to the Dordogne River. From St. Julien, you'll follow the river—first through open countryside past walnut, poplar and wild plum trees, then around a bend downhill with expansive views past fields of crops to Castelnaud village and its fortified castle. Later, when you venture into Sarlat, be sure to have your camera at the ready. This photogenic village is often used as the setting for motion pictures set in the Middle Ages because of its well-preserved center. Tonight it's the scenic backdrop for a memorable dinner.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: LES EYZIES

DAY 3 »

Les Eyzies

The Dordogne Valley is justifiably famous for its history, but it's also well known for its culinary treasures, as you'll find out today. To start, you'll be introduced to an amazing local friend, Eduard. He is one of the world's foremost experts on truffles, and you'll get the exclusive opportunity to join him on what is likely to be one of the most interesting and uncommon country walks of your life.

This walk has a particular purpose and guide. The purpose is to find truffles in the wild. And your guides are his truffle hunting dogs. You'll be amazed at how these truffle hounds are able to sniff out the prized truffles from under the oak trees as you search the forest together. This 'only with Classic Journeys' experience combines a scenic walk with the thrill of the search and the region's rich culinary tradition. After, you'll get to enjoy a memorable tasting of the local specialty. *Bon appétit!*

Your day continues with a visit to a local friend—a highly regarded artist—at her studio where she shares insights into her etching and printing techniques. Get the chance to learn first-hand about her craft, including the materials and textures used, as you admire her intricate artwork.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: LES EYZIES

DAY 4 »

Commarque Castle

This morning you'll enjoy a walk along a riverside path upstream to the Gorge d'Enfer. (If your French is good, you may be wondering about the "Canyon of Hell"; in fact, the reference is not to beautiful scenery, but rather to an ancient story about a priest's opinion of where some of the artifacts found nearby had originated!) Your guide will give you exclusive access to a very private visit that we know of no one else (tourist, traveler or tour company) making—to see a Paleolithic engraving that dates back 27,000 years.

After marveling at these ancient etchings, continue on foot to the Laugerie Basse, a prehistoric rock shelter embedded in the cliffs overlooking the Vezere Valley. Your walk this afternoon encapsulates all of the Dordogne and Vezere valleys into one beautiful footpath. On foot at eye level, you'll take in the views as you follow the banks of La Beune River and even a portion of an ancient cobble-stoned Roman road. Along the way, your guide will share stories and anecdotes about the nature, prehistory, modern history, troglodytic ruins, fortified and leisure castles. Your destination is Chateau de Commarque, where you'll explore the grounds of this 12th century hillside castle. End your adventurous day in Les Eyzies, with a guided walk around this charming town.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: MONTIGNAC-LASCAUX

DAY 5 »

La Roque St. Christophe / Lascaux II Caves

This morning your destination is La Roque St. Christophe, a fascinating troglodyte village that has been continuously inhabited for more than 50,000 years, dating back to Neanderthals. After a visit to the fortress, follow a footpath along the Vézère River to St. Leon-sur-Vézère. You'll feel like you are going back in time as you explore this tiny and charming riverside village with a beautiful Romanesque church and Renaissance château. The perfect way to soak in the scenery is with a riverside picnic of local specialties.

Continuing along the riverside paths, you'll be welcomed in the village of Sergeac as the guests of a local friend of ours. Get the 'only with Classic Journeys' experience to explore his private collection containing prehistoric tools, jewels and other artifacts found in the area. This is a unique privilege and a memorable opportunity to see the finest collection in France in a private setting.

The Dordogne region is noted for an incredible concentration of over 130 Paleolithic sites, the most renowned of which is Lascaux. In the company of your expert local guide, you'll pay a visit to the Lascaux II caves to marvel at the perfect replicas of the 17,000-year-old paintings found in Lascaux. The artfully crafted caves illustrate an important part of the prehistory of the area with paintings of bulls, bison and stags.

MEALS: B, L, D OVERNIGHT: MONTIGNAC-LASCAUX

DAY 6 »

Montignac / Brive

This morning you'll have time to meander through the market in Montignac, soaking in the lively atmosphere and mingling with local vendors. After, enjoy a stroll through Saint Amand de Coly, a lovely village nestled in the Dordogne countryside with what is reputed to be the most beautiful, fortified 12th-century church in the Périgord.

Late morning, part company in Brive at the rail station for regularly returning trains to Paris and onward travel.

MEALS: B

Tour Hotels



[Hotel Les Glycines](#)

Nestled in the beautiful Vezere Valley, this upscale property features a gourmet restaurant, spa, and six acres of wooded landscape. Soak in the views while relaxing in nature and enjoying your French retreat.

NIGHTS: 3 nights



[Hotel de Bouilhac](#)

Steps from the sacred hill of Lascaux, Hotel de Bouilhac is a 17th century hotel whose elegant architecture is typical of the Perigord Noir and is registered with the Historic Monuments of the region.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Hotel Burdigala lobby**
START CITY: **Bordeaux**
START TIME: **10:00 AM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Rail Station**
END CITY: **Brive**
END TIME: **12:50 PM**