

Touring holidays of France

Expressions



Dordogne self-drive touring holiday



www.expressionsholidays.co.uk
01392 441250

Dordogne self-drive touring holiday

8 NIGHTS / 9 DAYS

Honfleur

Loire valley near Angers

Dordogne

Chinon



This 8-night self-drive touring holiday to the Dordogne offers you an interesting route to and from the Dordogne which is your base for five nights but allowing for overnight stops in Normandy and Angers on the way out and near Chinon in the Loire Valley on the way back. Your self-drive tour to the Dordogne starts in Calais after a Eurotunnel crossing from Folkestone. Your first night is spent near Honfleur in Normandy, and it's a drive of about 3 hours through Picardy, crossing the estuary of the Somme and then over the River Seine on the Pont de Normandie. After Honfleur the next stop is just north of historic Angers in the Loire Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From the Loire you journey south, with the roofs of the houses changing from slate to terracotta. You reach your base for five nights in the countryside of the Dordogne, south of the river itself and not far from the wine town of Bergerac. The Dordogne resonates with history. It is here that the prehistoric cave paintings were discovered at Lascaux and Les Eyzies, and here too that over a thousand fortified castles were built in the Middle Ages as France and England fought the Hundred Years War over this territory. Today, these historic sites, the beauty of the rivers Dordogne and Vezere, the fertile landscape and the proximity of excellent vineyards make the Dordogne a delightfully rich region to visit. Enjoy your time here pursuing your interests. There are many sporting activities from golf to kayaking, from walking to cycling. On the way back we include just one night near Chinon in the Loire Valley, before you arrive at Calais and the return Eurotunnel crossing to Folkestone.

PRICES

From £1,340 per person

Based on two people sharing a double or twin room.

DATES

This self-drive touring holiday can be arranged for any departure date subject to availability.

TOUR CODE

FRSD13

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Eurotunnel from Folkestone to Calais return for car and passengers
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in a Country double room at the Auberge de la Source, near Honfleur
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in a Manor-house room at the Château de Noirieux, Angers
- 5 nights' bed and breakfast in a Classic double room at the Château des Vigiers, Monestier
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in a Standard room at Château de Marçay, near Chinon
- Concierge service and Expressions Holidays regional helpful hints

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Early check-in or late check-out at any hotels (although we can arrange this on request at additional cost)
- Any other services not mentioned above, such as transfers and meals except breakfast at hotels
- Personal holiday insurance. This is essential and cover should be in place from when you book the holiday.
- Local tourist tax, usually between Euros 1 and 3 per person per night, and payable locally to the hotel

Day one Calais to Honfleur

You cross the Channel by Eurotunnel from Folkestone to Calais and then drive south past Boulogne and Le Touquet, crossing the River Somme at Abbeville and then you head for the coast near Le Havre. Here you take the Pont de Normandie across the mouth of the Seine, arriving very close to Honfleur. Take time to visit Honfleur, favourite haunt of artists, with its picturesque fishing harbour before reaching your hotel which is in the countryside not far away.

Day two Honfleur to near Angers

Today's drive takes just under three hours, so there is time to linger in Normandy, perhaps to visit the seaside towns of Deauville or Trouville or to drive across the charming Calvados countryside south of Honfleur and stopping to admire the pretty villages and the scenery. The road takes you towards Le Mans and then it's motorway towards Angers before you head across country following the course of the River Loire to your overnight stop.

Day three Angers to the Dordogne

Today's drive can take you south to skirt the edge of the Marais Poitevin before joining the motorway heading in the direction of Bordeaux, passing the town of Saintes. North of Bordeaux you pass the edge of the Pomerol vineyards before veering south, crossing the river Dordogne west of Bergerac to reach your base in the Dordogne region for five nights.

Days four to seven In the Dordogne

You are situated conveniently in the lush Dordogne countryside between the towns of Bordeaux and Bergerac. There is a wealth of visits and local sightseeing from here, to the east and west. To the west you have Bordeaux, the city and its surrounding vineyards and wine towns such as St Emilion. Bordeaux itself is shaped by bold and impressive architecture, from the Amphithéâtre de Bordeaux dit Palais Gallien, to the amazing Cathédrale de Bordeaux, Basilica of St Michael, and Opéra National de Bordeaux. Spend a leisurely afternoon taking in the sights, and really appreciating the aesthetics of these buildings, before seeing a show at the Grand Théâtre or viewing the artwork in the Musée des Beaux-Arts. Visit such châteaux as the Château Rauzan Gassies, or the Château Mouton Rothschild, to taste the fruity Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. To the east of Monestier, Bergerac also offers wine-tasting opportunities in the Musée du Vin et de la Battellerie. In Bergerac, experience the lively hubbub of conviviality at the weekly (Wednesday and Saturday) market in the



Dordogne valley

centre of town, whilst picking up a few local treasures, be it food, wine, or arts and crafts. To the north-east, the village of Sarlat-la-Canéda offers a tour of the palaeolithic art of the Dordogne that takes you through the National Prehistory Museum and into the Lascaux Cave II. For a trip back into Dordogne history, visit the many nearby hidden gems, such as the small mediaeval village of Issigeac, the Château de Lanquais (recognised to be one of the greatest historical monuments in the area), the Château de Monbazillac with its unusual combination of mediaeval and Renaissance architecture, the model bastide of Monpazier, or the crystalline Maxange caves.

Day eight Dordogne to Loire Valley

Retrace your route today northwards from the Dordogne to the Loire Valley and your overnight stop south of Chinon. It is worth making an early start to give yourself time to explore Chinon, with its fortress set above the banks of the River Vienne. The main street is full of little shops selling local artefacts and wine, of course. Take a tour of modern wine-making processes at the Domaine de Noire or investigate more traditional processes in the atmospheric La Cave Monplaisir.

Day nine Loire Valley to Calais

The drive today is just under six hours and the most direct route to Calais takes you northwards to Le Mans and then Rouen on the River Seine. From Rouen it's motorway to Abbeville and then you retrace your outbound

route, passing le Le Touquet and Boulogne to reach Calais and your return Eurotunnel crossing to Folkestone.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

OUR TOURS

Our tailor-made touring holidays are suggested itineraries which can be adapted in numerous ways. They can be fly-drive (with flight and hire-car included), self-drive (with ferry or Eurotunnel included with your own car) or rail and hire-car.

FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of your chosen transport and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, train fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

The logo for Expressions Holidays, featuring the word "Expressions" in a white, elegant script font on a dark blue rectangular background.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators).

Expressions Holidays
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HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441250

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process.