



WINE , RIVERSIDE , NATURE ,
GASTRONOMY , CULTURE

type : Self-guided Round trips
Linear cycle routes Electric
bike option
hybrid : ●●●○○○
e-bike : ●●○○○○
duration : duration 7 days
comfort : ●●●●○○
period: Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code: FRSB051



Medieval roundtrip between Lot & Dordogne valleys

7 days, € 1040

Introduction



Beautiful cycling trip between the valleys of the Lot and the Dordogne rivers. Away from the crowds visit the authentic France countryside with its medieval villages like **Monpazier**, **Puy-l'Évêque** and **Belvès**. Visit castles like **Biron**, **Bonaguil**, **Castelnaud** or the **Château de Milandes** once owned by the famous Josephine Baker. Abbeys and 13th century churches will complete your discoveries. Don't forget to stop and shop in the little village markets or at the vineyards of the **Cahors** wine area. The hotels, ranging from simple to luxurious with a pool, are all full of charm. Food will be a delight on every stop. This trip shows you the real France and the cycling will be on very quiet roads.

[Check out our video to find more about the Dordogne:](#)

If you'd like to find out more about the region's castles, check out our article >>> **[The castles of the Dordogne, our blog.](#)**

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival in Monpazier**

Visit the village of Monpazier, labeled one of the most beautiful villages in France. This Bastide town was built on the orders of King Edward 1st in 1284. Enjoy a lovely 3-course dinner in the restaurant of the hotel.

Day 2 **Monpazier - Puy-l'Évêque**

A lovely first day cycling today. After the first few kilometres, you will see the very impressive Castle of Biron, a 13th century chateau. After a visit, you continue following a gently winding valley road until you will reach the village and fortress of Gavaudun which was built in the 11th century. It can be seen on a rocky outcrop high above the village and played a big part in the hundred-year war. Now you cycle on following nice quiet small country roads towards the river Lot. You then follow the river until you will reach your accommodation, a 17th century stone charterhouse, close to the village of Puy L'Eveque. The "Bishops Hill", once occupied by the English during the reign of King Henry IV, the marks from his cannonballs can still be seen on the walls of the main church of Saint-Sauveur. Dinner is included tonight.

Challenge: 59.5 km, 622m ascent, 712m descent

Day 3 **Puy-l'Évêque - Villefranche-du-Périgord**

You start today cycling along the Lot river as you climb gently out of the valley. Now you have a short but challenging climb to the village of Les Arques, where the very special museum on the artist Zadkine is worth a visit. The rest of the ride is easy and quiet through the real rural France countryside passing through chestnut forests. Soon you reach your destination, another Bastide town, Villefranche-Du Perigord. It even has a little chestnut museum.

Challenge: 46.7 km, 710m ascent, 538m descent

Day 4 **Villefranche-du-Périgord - Belvès**

You meander through the countryside via tiny hamlets, villages. The little climb of today is at the end of your ride when you reach your destination: Belvès, another one of "France's most beautiful villages". Enjoy the spectacular views and the sound of one of the seven bell towers. If you have time: visit the remains of medieval troglodyte houses to be discovered under (!) the main square.

Challenge: 45 km, 557m ascent, 659m descent

Day 5 **Optional Cycle loop to Castles at Dordogne river**

True, you don't have to cycle today, but if you don't you will miss a very scenic trip visiting some of the highlights of the Dordogne area. You will cycle through the Dordogne valley towards Château de Milandes, once the home of the world famous dancer, Josephine Baker. In the castle one can visit a very informative exhibition on her highly interesting life. Today you can also add an extra 11,5 km / 7,1 mi loop to the Château de Castelnaud, the most renowned and most visited castle of the Dordogne area.

Challenge: 41.6 km, 583m ascent, 585m descent

*If you make an additional loop via the castle of Castelnaud:
additional 11.3 km, 200m ascent, 201m descent*

Day 6 **Belvès - Monpazier**

You will leave Belves via the forests and you can pause, as did those once on the road to Compestella, in the village of Cadouin. Visit its 12th century abbey, listed on the UNESCO heritage list. Today it is relatively short trip, so you have plenty of time to profit from the pool of your hotel in Monpazier or to do some extra exploring of this stunning village.

Challenge: 34.6 km, 492m ascent, 471m descent

Day 7 **Departure from Monpazier**

After breakfast in your hotel, you will return home.

Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Daily from April 01 till October 31

Of course you can also book extra night(s) during the trip. We can give you these prices on request. Please mention where you would like to add extra night(s).

Practical Info



6 Nights included



2/3/4 Star Hotels (for this trip no supplement applied)



Breakfast included every morning
2 gourmet dinners (day 1 and 2)



Maps and tourist information on all the places of interest



24/7 Bilingual Emergency hotline



Luggage transport to your next accommodations. Luggage accepted per person: 1 suitcase or travel bag (20 kg maximum)



For time tables and further information check the [**website of SNCF**](#) or [**rome2rio**](#) for all French National trains (SNCF).

We strongly advise you to [**download the sncf mobile app**](#) prior to departure.

If you want to travel on a train with your bike, you can find more information [**via this link**](#).



Parking possibilities at the hotel



We will supply the directions of this trip with a personalized code which gives you access to our travel App.