



Chateaux and Manor Houses of the Dordogne and Loire self-drive holiday



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9 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS

Honfleur

Chinon

Dordogne

Amboise



This 9-night self-drive touring holiday of France takes you from Calais to the Dordogne where you explore different aspects of this historic and beautiful region in depth and have overnight stops in historic chateau or manor-house hotels in the Loire Valley with time to explore in more detail on the way back. Your journey starts in Calais and then you head south through Picardy, crossing the Somme and the Seine to have an overnight stop near the pretty fishing port and artists' haven of Honfleur. Then it's south to the Loire valley, hunting grounds of the kings of France, and a stop near Chinon. The next day, as you make your way further south, you pass the lace-making towns of Alencon and Le Mans, before reaching the Bordeaux area. Your first three nights in the Dordogne is south of the river and to the west of Bergerac, giving you access to the Bordeaux region and the wine-producing town of Bergerac. Your second stay of three nights is north of the river Dordogne and within easy reach of the prehistoric villages and caves at Les Eyzies and Lascaux, the market town of Sarlat and a route of chateaux along the river, with beautiful gardens to visit nearby. There is plenty of time to relax in both places and to enjoy the food and wine for which the region is so famous. Your return journey to Calais is broken by two nights in Amboise on the banks of the river Loire and within striking distance of some of the most beautiful chateaux in the area. You return to Calais for the Eurotunnel crossing back to Folkestone.

PRICES

From £1,880 per person

Based on two people sharing a double or twin room.

DATES

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

TOUR CODE

FRSD04

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Eurotunnel return crossing from Folkestone to Calais for car and passengers
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in a Country room at Auberge de la Source near Honfleur
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in a Standard double room at Chateau de Marcay near Chinon in the Loire Valley
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in a Deluxe room at the Chateau des Vigiers in Monestier in the Dordogne
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in a Superior double room at Le Vieux Logis at Tremolat in the Dordogne
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in a Superior room at Le Choiseul in Amboise in the Loire Valley
- 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.

Days two Honfleur to Chinon

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 Tours, the capital of the Touraine at the heart of the Loire Valley, and then south to the mediaeval town of Chinon, with its fortress set above the river Vienne.

Day three Chinon to Monestier, Dordogne

Today you drive south passing Poitiers in the direction of Bordeaux. North of Bordeaux you skirt the edge of the famous Pomerol vineyards before turning south, crossing the river Dordogne west of Bergerac to arrive at your first chateau-stay in the Dordogne. You have three nights here.

Days four and five In Monestier

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 centre of town, whilst picking up a few local



Chateau de Villandry

treasures, be it food, wine, or arts and crafts.

Day six Monestier to Tremolat

This short journey takes you into a different part of the Dordogne: that north of the river and close to the prehistoric sites of Lascaux and Les Eyzies, where CroMagnon man was discovered, as well as the mediaeval market town of Sarlat.

Days seven and eight In Tremolat

Whilst in this part of the Dordogne there are all sorts of activities and sightseeing possibilities, of a cultural, historical, gourmet and active nature. Sarlat is a thriving town with numerous shops and food stalls selling local delicacies such as foie-gras and other duck and goose products. There are several excellent restaurants in the town. Take a scenic drive along the river Dordogne, stopping to see the ruined mediaeval castles that dot the cliffs. Along the length of the river be sure to see the Chateau des Milandes, the chateau at Beynac-et-Cazenac, and the Chateau de Castelnau-la-Chapelle with its collection of mediaeval weapons. Nearby are the gardens of Marqueyssac, listed as a National Monument and planted with box through which there are numerous paths, creating a maze-like effect. There are fantastic views from a belvedere. Other gardens nearby include the Clos des Sources at Vitrac and the Jardins d'Eyrignac. Other notable villages in the area are La Roque Gageac, Domme and Beynac. From La Roque Gageac it is also easy to hire a canoe or to take a river trip on one of the gabarres, a boat designed after the old river

trading boats. The prehistoric sites at Les Eyzies and Lascaux should be visited but you should try to book entrances in advance as it does get very busy.

Day nine Dordogne to Amboise

Today your direction is northwards but take a different route, perhaps to Limoges and on to Poitiers or through Périgueux and then Angoulême and Poitiers. Your destination is to the east of Tours and the small town of Amboise. You have two nights here.

Day ten In Amboise

Amboise, on the banks of the river Loire, is home to the Chateau d'Amboise, a 15th century residence of Charles VIII and where you will find the tomb of Leonardo da Vinci. Nearby is the Chateau du Clos Lucé where Leonardo Da Vinci lived. In the grounds are displays of working models of this designs. Not far from Amboise is the Chateau de Chenonceau, famous for being primarily owned by women throughout its history and home to a vast art gallery and a collection of Flemish tapestries.

Day eleven Amboise to Calais

There are a couple of routes today as you drive back to Calais: one route takes you via Paris and the other, slightly longer, but perhaps an easier drive, takes you past Le Mans and Rouen. At Calais you take the Eurotunnel crossing back 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).

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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.