



The Vézère Valley

THE HEART OF DORDOGNE

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Welcome in Vézère Valley, Prehistoric pearl of Périgord

The Vézère Valley is located in South-West France, inside the department of Dordogne, two hours from Bordeaux, Limoges and Toulouse. It is already near the beautiful city of Sarlat (20 km).

On fifty kilometers, the Vézère Valley is one of the touristic jewels of Black Périgord.

The Vézère Valley is well-known for his numerous prehistoric sightseeing's (older than 400 000 years!), whose 15 are classified in UNESCO.

It's in the city of Montignac-Lascaux where happened one of the biggest prehistoric discovering of all the time: the cave of Lascaux, in 1940. The Lascaux cave has been opened to the public during many years until its closure in 1963. The important number of visitors (1500 per day) and the carbon dioxide due to the human breathing began to destroy the prehistoric paintings. Today, the original cave is closed and monitored in order to protect this classified site.



Not far, the city of Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil is the world capital of prehistory. That's here Peyrony, Lartet, Capitan, the abbess Breuil and Glory studied; here has been discovered the Cro-Magnon's Man; here that we can visit the National Museum of Prehistory... Finally, it's here where stand up the famous statue of the prehistoric man of Paul Dardé, symbol of prehistory in Périgord.

Welcome in the magnificent Vézère valley, to discover its numerous attractions: preserved landscapes, country heritage, gastronomic heritage, wealthy culture, old traditions, fascinating history...





To go to Vézère Valley

TRAIN

- Rail station in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, Périgueux, Brive la Gaillarde
- Ligne Paris-Toulouse or TGV Paris Bordeaux
- Ligne Limoges – Agen

AIRPORTS

- Bergerac (national and international flights),
- Périgueux-Bassillac (national flights),
- Brive (national and international flights).

ROADS

- Motorway Paris - Toulouse by A20 or Bordeaux - Lyon by A89.
- Bordeaux : 2h ; Toulouse : 2h ; Lyon : 4h ; Paris : 4h30 ; Nantes : 4h45 ; Marseille : 5h30.
- Lille: 6h30 ; Strasbourg : 7h45



The Vézère valley in statistics...

More than 400 000 years of history.

- 21 prehistoric sites whose 15 are classified at the World Heritage of Unesco.
- 6 museums dedicated to the Prehistory where you can learn.
- 6 troglodytic sites to pace.
- 6 castles to discover.
- 5 gardens where you can walk.
- 6 lively parks where you can stroll.
- 3 mini golf where you have fun.
- 2 caves with crystallization to explore.
- 1 abbey to visit.
- 1 aquarium where you can dream.

PREHISTORY

The prehistoric sites revisited in the era of new technology...

WHAT'S NEW IN 2016?

The international Centre of Parietal Art

(Lascaux IV) will be opened in 2016 at the foot of the hill of Lascaux. It will offer to the public, the complete reproduction of the cave thanks to technology of virtual reality, but also the discovering of parietal art all over the world and the civilisation of Cro-Magnon's Man.

Contact: +33 5 53 50 27 39

www.projet-lascaux.com

The Prehistoric labyrinth an "edutainment" attraction: set off on an expedition on the traces of professor Netsessur, a Cro Magnon expert. Discover an extraordinary experience through six different atmospheres: The ice path, the Professor's tent, the painted cave, the animal's cavern, the mirror labyrinth and the encounter with Cro Magnon. It's up to you to find the way out! You'll finish with the Panel Maze, which explains everything about our ancestor through seven mini educational circuits.

Tél. +33 5 53 07 10 74

www.labyrintheprehistorique.com



LASCAUX II. Reproduction of the famous prehistoric cave, located at 200m of the original cave. Technologic wizardry and scientific harshness have permitted to recreate the atmosphere of the original cave in order to bring back the most famous Palaeolithic sanctuary of the world. The tickets are sold in centre of Montignac from April until September. Dogs are allowed only in your arms. Ticket window n°1 to visit the main day or ticket window n°2 to buy your tickets in advance, 2 until 5 days before. Bookings advisable at ticket window n°2 in crowded period.

Visits by night in July/August only with booking.

Contact : www.lascaux-expo.fr/fr

LASCAUX III. This international exhibition brings together the best numerical technology in order to have an interactive and unforgettable visit: simulator of human presence, virtual immersion in 3D (in the bulls' room), special glasses to watch copyist who are working (the Axial Recess)... After Chicago and Houston (United States), the exhibition is established in the Museum of Natural Sciences of Montréal (Canada).

Contact : www.lascaux-expo.fr/fr

LE THOT. This virtual activity proposes an arts approach of caves in introduction or in complement of the visit of Lascaux II. The walk in the park permits to compare the painted animals in Lascaux with them alive descendants (aurochs, stags, tarpan horses and Prjewalski, buffalo...). This year, thanks to technology of augmented reality, the visitors can also discover prehistoric animals in a screen (-30 000 until -18000 years) and live a moment of proximity with the woolly rhinoceros, the lion of caverns, the mammoth, mega ceros... Application also available on digital tablet.

Contact: +33 5 53 50 70 44 - www.semitour.com/site-touristique/le-thot-espace-cro-magnon



... Animations through the time, for children and adults!

- **LA ROQUE SAINT-CHRISTOPHE.** Let's go to watch a film outside in this amazing troglodytic fortress! A film of entertainment in 3D relates evolution of the cliff through the ages. Screening on giant screen near the big terrace, located at 40m above the Vézère River.
Contact : +33 5 53 50 70 45
www.roque-st-christophe.com



- **L'ABRI CRO-MAGNON.** This new site proposes many interactive, recreational and educational experiences in order to know more about our ancestor, the Man of Cro-Magnon : immersive scenography (sound and visual), digital tablet, holograms, glasses with augmented reality, and to conclude a nature walk with a point of view which is peaking on the Vézère Valley.
Contact : +33 5 53 13 58 54
www.abri-cromagnon.com



- **LE GOUFFRE DE PROUMEYSSAC.** With his games of sound and lights, the cathedral of crystal becomes the theater of « the visit of Norbert Champignon in 1907 », which illustrates the famous legends and the history of abyss. Rendez-vous at 19h the Tuesdays and Thursdays in July and August. The geology has also a place of honor in the recreational-educational park. The children can discover the formation of cavities and caves around a game of giant goose.
Contact : +33 5 53 07 27 47
www.gouffre-proumeyssac.com



- **LA « COUDOUFLE » DU BOURNAT.** The Village of Bournat is a theme park which proposes to live the quotidian life of a village in 1900 through old professions, crafts. A small boat in wood, gabarot style, transports visitors-explorers to discover the marsh and its wildlife.
Contact: +33 5 53 08 41 99 – www.lebournat.fr





A PRESERVED NATURE



The preserved landscape of the Vézère valley permit to have a perfect destination for leisure in nature : walking, hiking, Nordic walk, riding but also to go canoeing, swimming... Many sites of the valley are classified and protected so that tourists and locals populations enjoy on a long –term.

For people who are fond of nature, a walk in Vézère Valley is more than a simple walk outdoor... Here you enter in a privileged territory, valued and involved in environment conservation.

Of this essential function, quasi-vital for human (from migrations in exodus) it's today an activity of pleasure in this region where you can already find salvage places.

Here, the Nature is impressive with its wildlife, its patrimony, its amazing landscapes, throughout its 675 km of walking paths, accessible for everybody.

Here the nature has been preserved, from relief until hamlet through the river until remains...A real peaceful place.

And if you add an extraordinary past and a warm welcome, nothing is more justified that the name of « the Man's valley ».

Because, what's better that the territory of Vézère Valley can attest that walk, « ancestor » of the hiking, reach back at the origin of the Man !



It is also :



2 classified villages « Plus beaux villages de France »

Saint-Amand de Coly & Saint-Léon-sur-Vézère, the two pearls of the valley!



1 project to have a label « Grand Site de France »

For 2009, the Vézère valley is involved to have a label "Grand Site of France" by the State. To have the prestigious title, the Vézère Valley has to develop many actions in order to improve the welcome of people, to organize a project of sustainable development and protection of the territory.





ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYBODY

▪ Walking, hiking and Mountain Bike

The Vézère Valley has some walking to discover alone, in couple or in family. There are for every levels! More than 65 paths are offered to the nature lovers. Some paths are also practicable in mountain bike.



Where to go : loop of Pléniers, loop of Miremont, loop of the centre de Fanlac, loop of Commarque, loop of Forêt Nord, loop of Saint Léon, loop of Roc, Le tour du Vélo Silex, loop of Etangs of Fon Gran, loop of Points de Vue, loop of Maillol, loop of Etangs de Coulonge, loop of Orsinie...

▪ The Périgord with horse

To explore the Périgord with horse is a pleasant and soothing way to discover this very rich region. Here, the walking are adapted for every levels: for the riders like the beginners. Guided by monitors, each one can discover at his rhythm the beauty of the landscapes of the Vézère Valley. Where to go : Ferme Equestre de Sardin, Ferme Equestre de la Franval, Ferme Equestre/Poney-club de Belle Oreille, Poney Club Arc en Ciel, Le Pré de Barre, Ferme de Fonluc.



▪ Active Holidays in Dordogne

The entertainments parks of the Vézère valley give to you strong and new sensations. At the proximity of beautiful sightseeing's, the courses proposed between the threes and the rivers make the holidays in Dordogne: recreational, sportive and unforgettable. Where to go : Mini golf - Jungle Golf in Le Bugue, Parcours Adventure & Parc aux Dinosaurés au Conquill, L'Appel de la Forêt in Thenon, Mini golf des Etangs du Bos.



▪ To swim

The public swimming-pool of Le Bugue and Montignac are opened for summer. They are adapted for the activities of swimming. On the other hand, the entertainment parks from Étangs du Bos and Jacquou Parc have the main equipment to have fun and refresh in family.

Where to go: Public swimming-pool of Le Bugue or Montignac, Jacquou Parc in Saint-Félix-de-Reilhac, at Étangs du Bos in Saint-Chamassy, at the lake of Tamniès.



ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYBODY

▪ Fishing

In heart of Black Périgord, the Vézère River, cradle of the human History, is surrounded by impressive cliffs. In an amazing landscape, the fishes are numerous: white fishes (roach, bleak, chub) and carnivorous (pike, zander and perch).

Where to go: In les eaux de Queyssac, aux Étangs du Bos in Saint-Chamassy, at the Lake of Tamniès.



▪ Canoe and boats

The Vézère could be discovered on the water... in canoe! It's in effect at the foot of the hill of the limestone valley that you find the most beautiful sightseeing's Dordogne. The canoeing is one of the essential activities to do when you are in holidays by us.

Where to go : Canoëric ou Canoës Les Courrèges au Bugue, Canoës A.P.A Saint-Léon à Saint-Léon-Sur-Vézère, Gabarres de Beynac in Beynac-et-Cazenac, Canoës Loisirs Evasion, Canoës Vallée Vézère, Animation Vézère Canoë Kayak AVCK, or Canoës les 3 drapeaux in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil, Kanoak in Montignac, or at Canoës Rivières Loisirs in Limeuil.



▪ Aerial discovering

The numerous reporting or TV program, show you the magnificence of Black Périgord **seen by the sky**. The colours, the forest, the rocks, the rivers, the castles and other manors take a magic dimension seen from above. The flights in paragliding, ULM and hot-air balloon offer an exceptional panorama of the Vézère Valley.

Where to go : Périgord Dordogne Montgolfières in Saint-Cyprien, Montgolfière et Châteaux in Beynac-et-Cazenac, Montgolfière du Périgord in La Roque-Gageac, ULM 24 in Saint-Pardoux-et-Vielvic, Parapente Dordogne in Simeyrols, and Chute Libre Dordogne in Domme.





ECOLOGICAL ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE NATURE

ORIGINAL & GREEN BREAK

▪ at the CROQUANTS D'HERBES FOLLES

The cottage -refuge d'Herbes Folles is the dreamed place to do the experience of a simple and sociable life in total nature immersion. The renting is divided into two parts, a night space: The hut-dormitory in wood, made like a refuge, without electricity. A convivial space: The Dryer of 88m², composed of wood, stone and glass which is the place where we cook, eat and read. Common sanitary, solar showers and ecological toilets. François proposes also ethno botanic trainings.

Contact: +33 5 53 05 50 57 - <http://croquant-herbes-folles.fr>



▪ At the VILLAGE ENCHANTEUR

The village is composed of small islands of life, of 6 bubbles of peacefulness which get organized naturally in a giant wooded park. In its heart: a swimming-pool with salted water, a games place dedicated to children and adults. The entire site is a successful demonstration of the possible and happy union between high comfort and respect of the environment. Each ecologic cottage has its own color and is made by local and natural materials (Douglas from Corrèze, flax oil, pigments...), solar-heated and enjoy of a panoramic view over the valley. The master of the site is « the Nature ». The nature that we respect and we learn to appreciate.

Contact: +33 5 53 50 32 42 – +33 6 76 95 28 74 - <http://www.le-village-enchanteur.com/>



▪ at LA CHÊNAIE DU ROC

This eco-gite, cottage situated in Black Périgord welcomes you in a green setting. Immense terrace with view on the site "La Roque Saint Christophe" and closeness with numerous tourist and prehistoric places. It offers you a magnificent frame with an aromatic garden on the terrace.

Contact : +33 6 79 60 31 77 - www.la-chenaie-du-roc.fr



WELL-BEING BREAK

▪ at the **DOMAINE DE LA RHONIE *****

The Domaine is located on a protected and classified site (Natura 2000). Just 9 km from Sarlat, enjoy a protected environment in the heart of the Black Périgord. Upon arrival on the site, you will immediately sense the peace and tranquility that pervade in this environment. More than just accommodation, the Domaine de la Rhonie offers the opportunity to have a different multi experience holiday : Staying on a site preserved by nature, possibility of participating in the restoration workshops of small buildings sited on the domain, Enjoying quality local products which comes from the agricultural activity still present in part of the domain with its sheep and geese rearing, its geese processing produce and fruit growing, ...
Contact : +33 5 53 29 29 07 - <http://www.domainedelarhonie.com/>



▪ at **LASSERRE PERDISSOU**

This guest house is an ancient périgourdine farm of the XVIIIth, restored in the respect for the local tradition, in communion with the nature! The place will offer you the ideal conditions to discover the charm of the region. The breakfast is necessarily bio!
Contact : +33 6 85 78 74 51 - <http://lasserreperdissou.e-monsite.com/>



▪ At the **CAMPING LA RIVIERE **** Hôtel ****

On the banks of the Vézère river, this former post house welcomes you with a variety of accommodation choices: whether you are staying in a tent, caravan, or mobile home, come and experience the joys of camping, where you will be assured of a memorable holiday. Since 2010, our Management has been committed to respecting the criteria of the European « Eco-label », approach certified in France by "AFNOR". Our environmental approach consists of the following main objectives To sustain the richness of our local heritage by reducing the impact of our presence on this environment. To ensure the well-being of our clients, as well as the working conditions of our staff, by using methods and products which respect the earth. We prefer to use ecological building materials, in order to increase public awareness and encourage the respect of our natural surroundings.
Contact : 05 53 06 97 14 - <http://larivierelesezyies.com>



ECOLOGICAL ACCOMMODATIONS (label) IN NATURE

WELL-BEING BREAK

▪ at the CAMPING LE PARADIS *****

The camping is located on 7 hectares (more than 150 species of trees), Le Paradis is a 5 stars camping with a nature mind!



On place there is many choices of accommodation: Mobil-home, Canadian tents or individual houses in order to satisfy every expectations. The swimming pools installed in heart of a luxuriant vegetation promise to you aquatic pleasures for the main family. The space well-being Spa, Hammam and sauna will make your holidays more relaxing.

Contact: +33 5 53 06 15 29 - www.le-paradis.fr



▪ at the CAMPING SAINT AVIT LOISIRS *****

First camping 5 stars in Aquitaine, Saint Avit Loisirs welcome you on a domain of 53 hectares in heart of the nature. Safari tents, chalets, cottages, Mobil home ... you will find the set option which correspond to you. On more than 235 m2, the new aquatic place « Aquarelax » offer to you swimming pool, Jacuzzi / Balneotherapy, well-being waterfalls, massaging jets and water slides. All has been thought to make your journey a delicious cocktail of well-being.



Contact : +33 5 53 02 64 00 - www.saint-avit-loisirs.com/fr/aquarelax.html

▪ at the ECOLOGES OF THE HOTEL **** SPA LES GLYCINES

Private and independent residence composed of 23 rooms and 7 suites, member of the network « Châteaux & Hotels Collection », Les Glycines are more than a charming hotel with a wonderful cuisine, it's a safe haven which invite at the contemplation.



For 2014, two green lodges with terraces built on piles offer high quality performance and enjoy a breathtaking view on the cliff and the outdoor swimming-pool of the hotel. The hotel enhances itself with a space dedicated to leisure and well-being. The Spa is equipped with sauna, Hammam, swimming-pool against the tide and proposes massages with health range Nuxe which will make your stay relaxing and regenerating.



Contact: +33 5 53 06 97 07 - www.les-glycines-dordogne.com

Other touristic accommodations are to discover on our website:
<http://www.lascaux-dordogne.com>.



MARKETS AND LOCAL PRODUCTS

Local Growers

Like everywhere in Dordogne, the Vézère valley excels in gastronomy. Speak about Périgord it is immediately think to foie gras of Périgord, fillets of ducks, the black truffles of Périgord, ceps and walnuts AOC from Périgord. All of these prestigious products of the French gastronomy have been put forward by UNESCO. An infinity of receipts are possible thanks to the diversity of these resources with exceptional flavours !

All local growers and their shops are on the website <http://www.lascaux-dordogne.com/fr/producteurs-locaux>. The local products are also used in the restaurants of the Vézère Valley.



The markets of Périgord

The main year, the cities and villages live for the weekly markets. The opportunity for local growers to propose the best of their homemade. The market is the place to buy traditional products. Strawberries, melons, chestnuts, ceps, foies gras, truffles, honey, walnuts, cheeses, farmyard poultry,... compose the stalls in function of the seasons. Beautiful assortment of many colours, flavours and scents from our region! « Market » is the symbol of friendliness, pleasures and discovering.



The weekly traditional markets:

- Monday: Les Eyzies (April until October.)
- Tuesday : Le Bugue
- Wednesday : Montignac
- Saturday : Montignac and Le Bugue
- Sunday : Rouffignac and Saint Léon-sur-Vézère



The markets by night:

In summer, the markets of growers set up on the place of the village. It's a good opportunity to meet farmers and craftsmen. From stall to stall, the plates and the glasses are full. The selling is already accompanied by a tasting and often with a musical animation.

In July and August:

- Monday evening in Montignac.
- Tuesday evening in Le Bugue and in Saint Amand de Coly
- Wednesday in Aubas and Rouffignac-St-Cernin
- Thursday evening (handwork and gourmand market) in Saint Léon-sur-Vézère
- Friday evening in Les Eyzies (on the Vézère bank) and in Valojoux



TOP EVENTS

March

[La grappe de Cyrano](#) between Montignac and Bergerac (enduro moto)

May

[Festival Brikabrak of Le Bugue](#) : 14 < 15 may. Circus, theater in the street...

[Rendez-vous at the gardens](#): end of Mai-beginning of June

June

[Rendez-vous in gardens](#) 5 < 6 june

[Days of archaeology](#) 17 < 19 june

July

[Festival of Montignac "Cultures aux coeurs"](#) 25 < 31

July.

[St Amand fait son intéressant mid-July in St Amand de Coly](#) : Theater in the Streets, dance, perambulations, concerts...



August

[Festival of Black Périgord](#) 27 july < 30 September (classic music)

[Festival of Music in Périgord](#) end of July and beginning August

[The night of stars](#) 7 < 9 august



September

[European Heritage days](#) the 3^d weekend of September.

[Festival of Black Périgord](#) 27 july < 30 September (classic music)

October

[Rando Silex](#) (walking, VTT) (1 < 2 October)

November

[Contes du Lébéroü](#). Evenings of legends in every villages of Black Périgord.

[Festival of film Documenterre](#) in Montignac the last weekend of November.

December

[Exhibition Christmas all over the world](#) mid-December

[Exhibition/selling of craftsmen](#) of Montignac at the Priory



TESTIMONIES



- **Read in Facebook...** www.facebook.com/lascaux.vallee.vezere

"Hello everybody! We have visited Périgord for two weeks: FANTASTIC!!!!!! Thank you for your welcome! Paola d'Italie" (Paola Gasparetto)

"We arrive next Saturday for 4 terrific weeks." (Satirle Groboumba)

"Hello, we come for holidays in your region in August that we suggest to visit. Thank you." (Patricia Genillon)

"What's beautiful region, it's feels like to live there" (Aménagement Lcb)



- **Read in Twitter...** [@lascauxdordogne](https://twitter.com/lascauxdordogne)

"We come with pleasure!" (@Lecoinvoyageurs)

"We arrive to admire and speak about Black Périgord!" (@SOVoyageurs)

"The cave of Lascaux... the Sixtine chapel of the prehistory» (@Werp1Ant)

"But in Dordogne there are also castles and many other things."
(@WeirdoLikeTommo)