

HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club Randonnée en Dordogne II, France, 2027

- Dates:** Orientation meeting on Monday, June 7, 2027. Riding June 8–19 (with a couple of rest days). Return to Bordeaux on June 20th. Depart from Bordeaux on June 21st.
- Tour leader:** Fred Yu with SAG and vehicle support as well as local knowledge from Damien Mottier
- Rating:** Easy-Intermediate
heartcycle.org/tour-ratings
- Distance/gain:** Approximately 569 km and 6,421 m of elevation gain
- Riders:** 16 (including tour leader); accommodations for members in 5 shared rooms and 5 singles
- Price:** \$5,200 per person (double occupancy). \$1,300 deposit due at time of registration. Balance due by March 9, 2027. Limited single supplements available for \$6,400.
- Cancellation:** [Standard cancellation policy](#)

Travel insurance is strongly recommended.



OVERVIEW

The department of the Dordogne, in southwest France, takes its name from the Dordogne River, which flows through it. Also called the Perigord region, Dordogne is known for its food (especially truffles, foie gras, and duck confit), wines, prehistoric sites, and beautiful scenery. The countryside is dotted with picturesque villages, some dating



to the Middle Ages, as well as chateaux, castles, and fortified towns. Over 12 days, we will explore this region at a relaxed pace, favoring small quiet roads, taking the time to savor the tastes of the local food and wine specialties, and absorbing the pleasures of cycling through the beauty of rural France. This tour is best suited for experienced bike tourers with a sense of exploration. The terrain should not be punishing but expect plenty of hills and few straight roads. Distances, overall, are moderate and subject to modification. The objective is *not* to arrive at the hotel late in the afternoon, exhausted from the day's effort. If, however, the suggested route for the day leaves you wanting more or omits a chateau or other sight you are keen on, feel free to ride more kilometers.



Breakfast each morning and bike rental are included, along with several group dinners. Lunches, coffee breaks, beer, wine, and other beverages are not included.

We will have luggage transfer, van support, and a local guide. The van will have water and snacks, but do not expect the usual mid-ride sag stops and

lunches typical of the club's domestic tours. One of the delights of cycling in France is stopping in cafés, boulangeries, or markets to experience the food. Thus, an important part of each day's ride plans will be where and when to stop for coffee or other refreshments and where and what to eat for lunch.



HIGHLIGHTS

5 group dinners in St. Emilion, St. Nexans, Monpazier, Rocamadour, and Brantôme (at a Michelin-starred restaurant), and lunch at a foie gras farm.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday, June 7, 2027

Bordeaux, orientation meeting at 6 p.m.

Gather for orientation in Bordeaux, France's ninth largest city and a world capital of wine and gastronomy. Our 4-star hotel is in the city center, easily reached by tram from the train station, and steps from the Garonne River.



Day 2: Tuesday, June 8

Bordeaux to St. Emilion

54 km and 437 m of elevation gain

Cycle to St. Emilion, a medieval town famous today for its wines. Shortly after leaving the hotel in Bordeaux, we will be on cycle paths, including a "rails to trails" piste for much of the way. Our hotel for the next two nights is the Logis des Remparts, within the city walls, with a lovely swimming pool.

Day 3: Wednesday, June 9

St. Emilion loop

15 km and fairly flat

Cycle to wine tasting and explore the local roads.



Day 4: Thursday, June 10

St. Emilion to St. Nexans

69 km and 569 m of elevation gain

We descend into the Dordogne River valley then go upriver. Our destination is St. Nexans, where our hotel is La Chartreuse du Bignac, a sophisticated hotel on a hilltop in the countryside. Group dinner on the terrace.

Day 5: Friday, June 11

St. Nexans to Monpazier

43 km and 422 m of elevation gain

You won't want to leave La Chartreuse, but the destination is Monpazier, a bastide (fortified) town with a well-preserved central square. Our hotel is the Edouard Premier, a château with a view over the surrounding landscape. A swimming pool and another delicious group dinner in the garden await.

Day 6: Saturday, June 12

Monpazier to Cahors

78 km and 943 m of elevation gain

We head to the Lot River valley, also famous for its wines, where we will stay two nights in Cahors, the former capital of the Quercy region. The main city is situated within a large loop of the River Lot.





Day 7: Sunday, June 13
Optional out-and-back ride to St. Cirq la Popie

63 km and 715 m of elevation gain
 Ride up the Lot River to St. Cirq la Popie, a beautiful medieval village perched 80 m above the Lot River.

Day 8: Monday, June 14
Cahors to Rocamadour

64 km and 988 m of elevation gain

From Cahors, we ride north to Rocamadour, an historic village built onto the face of a high cliff 150 m above the Alzou Canyon. Rocamadour was the site of pilgrimages and is in a stunning location. Group dinner tonight on the terrace.

Day 9: Tuesday, June 15
Rocamadour to Sarlat-la-Caneda

52 km and 544 m of elevation gain

We cycle to Sarlat-la-Caneda, the center of the Perigord Noir. Famous for its well-preserved narrow medieval streets in the town center, Sarlat has a wealth of restaurants, shops, and other services as well. Our hotel is the Plaza Madeleine, located on a pleasant square a few steps from the tourist bustle of Sarlat.

Day 10: Wednesday, June 16
Rest day in Sarlat-la-Caneda

Day 11: Thursday, June 17
Sarlat-la-Caneda to Les Eyzies

42 km and 412 m of elevation gain

The day's destination is Les Eyzies, in the Vezere River valley, where one can visit Lascaux II and other prehistoric sites. Our hotel is the Moulin de la Beaune, a family-run lodging, located on a pleasant brook next to a restaurant with an old mill wheel outside.



Day 12: Friday, June 18

Optional out-and-back to St. Leon-sur-Vezere

31 km and 416 m of elevation gain

Visit Lascaux; pedal to St. Leon-sur-Vezere for lunch by the river or in the gourmet cafe in the town; or hang out in Les Eyzies.

Day 13: Saturday, June 19

Les Eyzies to Brantôme

73 km and 975 m of elevation gain

The penultimate stop is Brantôme, known as the Venice of the Perigord, due to the Dronne River that flows around the town, which is located on an island. The town features an abbey built into the face of a cliff. Our hotel is on the river with views of the town, the waterways, the bridges, and the park. Final group dinner at the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant.

Day 14: Sunday, June 20

Return to Bordeaux by van.

Day 15: Monday, June 21

Depart Bordeaux or continue your exploration of France on your own.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Bring your bike pedals.
- If you want, bring your own saddle (not required).
- Try to arrive in Bordeaux no later than Sunday, June 6th. This provides a buffer should you encounter any travel delays.

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