

# Canoeing on the Dordogne

## Hotel-to-hotel independent canoeing

- One of France's most celebrated rivers: wide, peaceful, calm, flat
- Excellent for families: fun for children, easy for beginners
- Friendly hotels, all with pools; superb cuisine
- Lots of sightseeing all along the river: majestic châteaux, picturesque perched villages, troglodyte cave dwellings
- Canadian canoes, kayaks available too; possibility of bikes for all rest days



This canoeing holiday is a leisurely way to explore one of France's most interesting waterways. There are no major weirs to carry your canoe round, and the flow of the water does much of the work for you!

The Dordogne river has glorious golden-pink limestone cliffs and runs through the walnut groves and truffle woods of the Périgord. You have many opportunities for sightseeing as you travel downstream past châteaux (both imposing and magnificent), ancient villages, and world-famous prehistoric sites. Plenty of diversions away from the river, too: from Souillac you can visit the prehistoric sites of Lascaux and Les Eyzies, or, from St Sozy, get to Rocamadour, a spectacular cliff-clinging town.

The canoeing is safe, not demanding, and we give you a lesson on handling your canoe before you set off. We have chosen lovely, friendly hotels throughout, all with their own swimming pools.

Note: All customers must be able to swim at least 50m fully clothed. We provide 2/3 person canoes (minimum age 8 years). Single-person kayaks are also available if specified when you book. Only suitable for children over 12 unless experienced. Should the river, at any point, be deemed too high to safely canoe, we will provide Breakaway bikes at no extra charge for all days affected.

*"We liked canoeing one day and cycling the next, having bikes available was good as we could go somewhere without getting a taxi."*

Mrs C Elliott



## CANOEING ON THE DORDOGNE | DAY BY DAY

### Day 1 Arrive at Sarlat

Our ★★★ hotel is a lovely country house, set in 3 acres of private pine woods, overlooking the Sarlat valley.

### Day 2 Sarlat/Carennac 15km/8mi/4hr

After breakfast, we take you upstream to near the pretty riverside town of Beaulieu-sur-Dordogne for the briefing and canoeing lesson. Then it's an easy paddle down to Carennac. This is one of the Dordogne's most picturesque villages, with lovely 16C houses. Our hotel, with outdoor pool, is right in the heart of the village, overlooking the river.

### Day 3 At Carennac

A fairytale village with a jumble of cottages and 16C turreted manor houses and the remains of the ramparts and the once-magnificent priory. Fénélon, still celebrated as the village's most famous son, was the very popular bishop here in 1681 - and a local *apéritif* is named after him! It's fun exploring the narrow streets and alleyways and walks round the village and on the *causse* provide some of the very best views of the Dordogne. To explore further afield, you might like to hire a bike and visit the Gouffre de Padirac (9km/6mi away), one of the region's important spectacles - amazing caverns, huge galleries, and a boat trip on the underwater lake.

### Day 4 Carennac / St Sozy 20km/13mi/4hr

On the first part of the journey you pass below massive cliffs, paddling past four impressive riverside châteaux before arriving at St Sozy and our friendly little hotel.

### Day 5 At St Sozy

Why not relax at the hotel's pool? Or take a pleasant walk to the south of the river, by the Rochers Ste Marie and the Grotte de Lacave? Rocamadour is only a 15km/9mi taxi ride away. Together with the Mont St Michel, it is France's most venerated religious site. Kings have climbed the steps to the basilica on their knees. Sailors pray to the Black Madonna when in peril, and the bell of her chapel rings each time she rescues another ship. The chapel is full of little model ships presented in gratitude.

### Day 6 St Sozy/Souillac 16km/9mi/4hr

Today is an easy paddle, with lots of interesting things along the river. You pass - and can visit - the caves of Lacave (over a mile of caverns with curious stalactites reflecting in the water) and some beautiful riverside châteaux (look out for Belcastel and the impressive Château de la Treyne in particular).

### Day 7 At Souillac

The prosperous farming country around Souillac was created from marshland by industrious 12-13C Benedictine monks. Of the powerful abbey they built, just the abbey church remains, with outstanding bas-relief sculpture. Today Souillac is a bustling town, with good shops and a weekly local market. Visit the *Musée de l'Automate*, the largest collection of mechanical toys and dolls in France.

### Day 8 Souillac / Sarlat 12km/7mi/3hr

Relaxed canoeing down to Groléjac via St Julien (lovely village, good lunch stop) through the heart of peaceful and prosperous Périgord countryside, with lots of time for swimming or lazing by the river. We pick you up from here and take you to Sarlat in time to explore the old regional capital before dinner. The *Vieux Quartier* is an astonishingly beautiful jumble of varying architectural styles, virtually all pre-C17.

### Day 9 Leave Sarlat

You leave your hotel after breakfast.

*Note: the village fête takes place in St Sozy over the 3rd weekend in July. Great atmosphere but if you prefer things quiet, perhaps choose an alternative date.*

**For people wanting to have bikes available for all 'rest-days' these can be pre-booked for you (\$170 per adult and \$85 per child per stay) and will be waiting at each hotel for you.**

## CANOEING ON THE DORDOGNE | WHERE YOU STAY



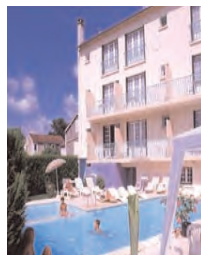
**Hostellerie Meysset**  
★★★  
Sarlat  
Days 1+8



**Hostellerie Fenelon**  
★★★  
Carennac  
Days 2+3



**Hotel Grangier**  
★★★  
St Sozy  
Days 4+5



**Hotel le Quercy**  
★★★  
Souillac  
Days 6+7

For extra nights we recommend Sarlat and Souillac, and city add-ons can be arranged in Toulouse.



## Dates and Prices

Departs every two days	Tour Only
<b>2012 departures</b>	
May 23-Jun 12	\$3,048
Jun 14-30, Sep 12-24	\$3,048
Jul 2-12, Sep 2-10	\$3,048
Jul 14-Aug 31	\$3,120
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,883

**Singles:** Add \$38 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.

**July 10 departure no single supplement.**

**Child:** Over 8 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults. This holiday is unsuitable for children under 8 years (under 12 for kayaks unless experienced).

**Room upgrade:** Prices from \$36 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

**Holiday type:** Independent canoeing, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size.

**Departs:** Every two days from May 23 to Sep 24.

**Duration:** 9 days (8 nights).

**Meals:** Continental breakfast and evening meals.

**Other details:** All customers on this holiday must be able to swim 50 metres fully clothed and be reasonably fit and active. Shuttle Bus from Toulouse Blagnac Airport to Toulouse Matabiau Station payable locally cost approximately 5 Euro/\$7 per person per one way journey. For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

## Tailor-made travel choices

**Nearest Arrival Airport: Toulouse Airport**

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

**The above prices include our standard transfers:** Souillac train station at 15:08 Mon-Sat, 15:32 Sun (transfer to hotel, 45 mins, provided). **Return:** Souillac train station by 11:31 Mon-Fri, 12:27 Sun (transfer provided), (Brive train station by 11:59 Sat - Transfer to Brive 60 mins, provided). T

**Rail Options:** Toulouse Matabiau to Souillac 13:22/15:08 Mon-Sat, 13:46/15:32 Sun. Return: Souillac to Toulouse 11:31/13:20 Mon-Fri, 12:27/14:16 Sun. (Brive to Toulouse 11:59/14:08 Sat).

**Second Class French Rail:** Add \$97 per person, round trip.

**First Class French Rail:** Please phone for details and prices.

**Tour only:** Transfers included from Souillac train station at 15:08 Mon-Sat, 15:32 Sun and back to Souillac train station departing hotel at 10:20 Mon-Fri, 11:20 Sun and back to Brive departing hotel at 10:30 Sat.

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