

## Heartcycle Bicycle Touring Club Randonnée en Dordogne 2025

<b>Dates:</b>	June 1-13, 2025
<b>Leader:</b>	Fred Yu
<b>Rating:</b>	Intermediate, ~450-500 km
<b>Riders:</b>	16 (includes tour leader)
<b>Price:</b>	\$3,500 (double occupancy). \$1,000 at registration. Balance due by March 2, 2025. Single supplement \$5,250.
<b>Cancellation:</b>	<a href="#">Standard cancellation policy</a> <b>Travel insurance is strongly recommended.</b>

### 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 11 days, we will explore this region at a dignified 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, 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 experiencing the food. Thus, an important part of each day's ride planning will be where, when, and what to eat for lunch.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Sunday, June 1, 2025

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 away from the Garonne River.

### Day 2: Monday, June 2

We will travel by van to Brantôme, the Venice of the Perigord, to start the tour. Get fitted on your rental bike (choice of road, gravel, hybrid, or e-bike). Afternoon warm-up loop ride to Bourdeilles. ~26 km. Group dinner at the hotel.



### Day 3: Tuesday, June 3

Loop ride to St. Jean de Cole. ~50 km. Second night in Brantôme.

### Day 4: Wednesday, June 4

Ride from Brantôme to Montignac. ~75 km. Optional visit to truffle museum en route. Group dinner at the hotel.

### Day 5: Thursday, June 5

Options day: Visit Lascaux II, explore the lower Vezere River to Les Eyzies or the upper Vezere River valley, or rest in town.

### Day 6: Friday, June 6

Montignac to Sarlat-la-Caneda. ~30 km. Sarlat is the capital of the Perigord Noir. Its central core, dating to medieval times has been restored beautifully. The town is full of restaurants, shops, street life, markets, and more.

### **Day 7: Saturday, June 7**

Options day in Sarlat: Saturday is market day in Sarlat. Visit the market; hop on the bike and explore the countryside east of Sarlat with a loop ride to Salignac-Eyvigues (~35 km); or veg by the hotel pool.



### **Day 8: Sunday, June 8**

Sarlat to Monpazier. ~60 km. Heading south and west from Sarlat, our destination, Monpazier, is a bastide (fortified) town laid out in the Middle Ages. This will be a hilly day, full of sights. Along the way, take in Domme, offering a gorgeous hilltop view of the Dordogne (see above), La Roque Gageac, and the castles of Beynac and Cazenac. Group dinner tonight at our hotel, a chateau from the 1800s.

### **Day 9: Monday, June 9**

Monpazier to Bergerac. ~ 55 km. Pedal through Beaumont-du-Perigord, an English bastide town built by Edward I of England, en route to lunch, which perhaps you will enjoy in Issegeac, another town with its roots in medieval times. Group dinner at our hotel.



**Day 10: Tuesday, June 10**

Bergerac to Saint-Emilion. ~65 km. We head into wine country for a two-night stay in the center of Bordeaux winemaking, crossing back over the Dordogne River. Saint Emilion is a UNESCO World Heritage site where wine has been made for centuries. It retains its medieval ambiance in the small streets and limestone buildings while offering a full palette of sophisticated services for tourists.

**Day 11: Wednesday, June 11**

Enjoy a wine tasting (or two) and some light pedaling in the environs. Take this day to enjoy Saint Emilion.

**Day 12: Thursday, June 12**

Return to Bordeaux. ~60 km. We leave Saint Emilion, heading for the cycle route to Bordeaux. Return the bikes.

**Day 13: Friday,  
June 13**

Departure after breakfast.



**For more information contact:**

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