

HEARTCYCLE BICYCLE TOURING CLUB BEYOND DORDOGNE

- Dates:** Orientation Saturday evening, June 19, 2020, Ride June 20-28, Departure June 29.
Leaders: Fred Yu, Graham Hollis
Rating: Advanced (See notes below)
Riders: 16 plus 2 leaders. Our lodgings allow for 6 couples in 1 bed rooms, and 6 singles.
Price: \$2,750 (Double occupancy); Single Supplement +20% (\$3,300 total). Bike rental included. \$700 due at Registration. Remainder due by 3/19/20
Cancellation: [Standard cancellation policy applies](#). Travel insurance is recommended.

OVERVIEW

Leave the beaten path and do what the bicycle was meant for – to explore quiet roads through beautiful French villages and countryside, eating well and savoring the heritage and pleasures of rural France. In this tour we will search out some parts of the Dordogne less trodden by tourists.

Daily distances are between 50 and 80 km. Terrain is varied with hills.



Brantome

This tour is rated advanced for several reasons: we will have a support vehicle primarily for emergencies. We will not have SAG support in the form of prescribed aid and lunch stops. Riders should be possessed of an independent, adventuresome and self-sufficient spirit. The daily distances are not long; the terrain is hilly, but neither mountainous nor flat; the area is dotted with towns, small and large, with cafes, restaurants, bars, boulangeries, patisseries, epicerias, etc., as well as countless sights and other divertissements en route. We encourage you to slow down, get off the bike from time to time, and enjoy what France has to offer: beauty, history, serenity, great food and wine, warm hospitality. There will be a suggested route each day for those who desire a prescribed route to follow on the Garmin or phone, or who fear getting terminally lost. We will provide each couple/single rider with a map of the area and exhort each rider to follow his or her own heart on the bike. If you need close guidance, this is not your tour.

ITINERARY

Friday June 19, 2020, we will begin with a group rendezvous in Bordeaux, the hub of famous wine regions in southwest France, on the banks of the Garonne River.

Bordeaux is readily accessible by air, rail and road. Saturday June 20, we bus to the start of riding in Brantome, the Venice of the Perigord.

From Brantome, we will ride east and south through the truffle region to Condat-sur-Vezere in the Vezere River valley. In the following days we will visit several of “les plus belles villages” (the most beautiful villages) in France, while exploring the Quercy region and the upper tributaries of the Dordogne. We stay for two nights with a day off in the medieval town of St. Cere. We continue eastward to Aurillac at the edge of the Massif Central. We have another day off in Aurillac: explore the heights of the Puy Mary, the largest volcano in the Massif Central, visit Salers, another of les plus belles villages in France, or simply relax in town; then southwest to Figeac, and down the Lot River valley through Cajarc and, finally, Cahors, a beautiful city founded by the Romans, located on a giant loop of the Lot River.



Lot River Valley

Pont Valentre in Cahors

Accommodations will include a couple of four star hotels (one with a Michelin-starred restaurant), a chateaux and three star hotels. All breakfasts and three group dinners included. Our last night is Sunday June 28, with departure Monday June 29.

For more information, contact:

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