



Dordogne

TRAVEL GUIDE

Oliver's Travels

YOUR GREAT ESCAPE

With the eponymous river running through its heart, the Dordogne really is a treasure trove when it comes to the hidden beauty of France. It's got history, culture and tasty cuisine in spades, and the landscapes offer breath-taking views and exciting activities in equal measure.

DORDOGNE 101

CURRENCY	EURO	TIME ZONE	GMT +1
ELECTRICAL	TWO PIN ROUND	HIGHEST TEMP.	29° C
LANGUAGE	French	LOWEST TEMP.	9° C
EMERGENCY	112	PEAK SEASON	APRIL - OCT





TRANSPORT TALK



BY WHEELS

The Dordogne's exquisite rural landscapes and generally quiet roads make driving an enjoyable experience. Car rental companies in the area include Europcar and Avis.



BY BIKE

The Dordogne has lots of scenic bike routes through the region and there is an almost a limitless selection of gorgeous villages in which to stop for rest and refreshments.



BY TAXI

There are several taxi companies operating in the Dordogne area. They operate through taxi ranks in and around the town centres and are available to call and pre book.



BY WATER

Its fairly easy to get to the Dordogne by ferry, options include coming into Caen ferry port or into the Calais ferry port, followed by a 6-9 hour drive depending what port you travel into.



BY AIR

Fly from the UK in to Bergerac or Bordeaux. Alternative airports include: Brive Vallée de la Dordogne, Perigueux airport and Aurillac Tronquiere airport.



BY BUS OR TRAIN

Sarlat is the main public transport hub, with trains connecting it to other regional destinations. The Trans-Périgord network links main cities in the Dordogne and south Charente by bus.

HIDDEN GEMS AND ACTIVITIES

Périgueux Market

Rise early for the **Périgueux Market** and marvel at the sheer variety of foie gras, meat, cheese, fresh bread and just-picked fruit and vegetables for sale.

Vesunna Gallo-Roman

The fantastically laid-out **Vesunna Gallo-Roman Museum** allows its visitors to play archaeologist for the day!

Chateau des Milandes

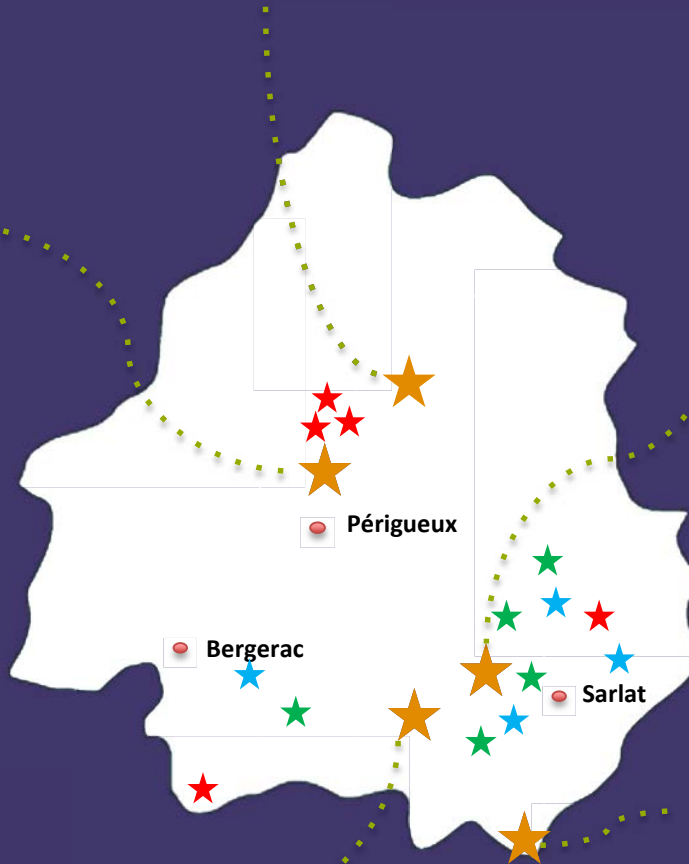
The **Chateau des Milandes** manor house is a monument to Josephine Baker who once lived here. A museum inside pays homage to the singer's intriguing life.

Urval

A sleepy, one-church hamlet surrounded by forest, **Urval** goes without mention in most guidebooks, but we think it's worth a gander if only to experience its authentic charm.

Loubejac

Night markets are an integral part of life here in the Dordogne. Join in on the fun at **Loubejac's** evening fete. Eat, drink and be merry!



- ★ Hidden Gems
- ★ Picks for Kids
- ★ Best Activities
- ★ Foodie Delights



TOP PICKS FOR KIDS

Trebuchet Demos



Dotted throughout the Dordogne's landscape are countless numbers of beautiful castles and Chateaus. [Chateau de Castelnaud](#) goes one better and has battle recreations for the family to enjoy.



Make Paper



[Le Moulin de la Rouzique](#) gives kids a hands on experience on how paper is made. A guide will walk your family through the paper-making process, you'll even get the chance to help make a sheet.



Descend the Depths



Why not descend into the depths and visit some of the region's impressive caves and grottoes? Try [Cave of Font-de-Gaume](#), who will show you genuine cave paintings.



Best Canoeing



There are plenty of activities to enjoy on water and the scenery is breath taking. One of the most popular things to do is canoeing. [Canoe France](#) is a good place to start!



Slip and Slide



Let's face it, water parks are kiddie heaven, Pack swimsuits, armbands and sunscreen and let your lot loose on the thrilling slides of [Aux Etangs du Bos](#)! It's a summer day trip the whole family is sure to love!



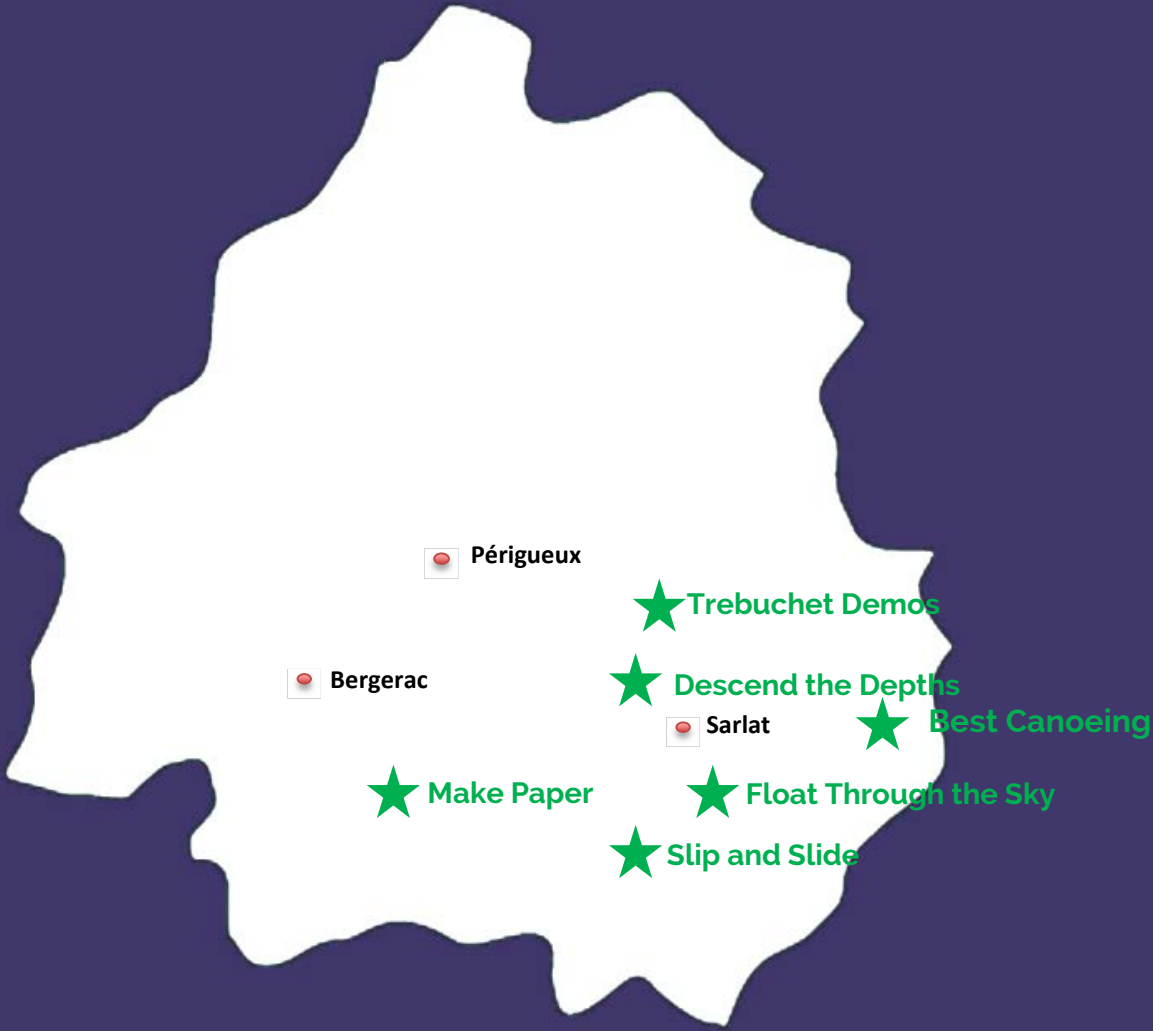
Float Through the Sky



Few landscapes are as pleasant to look down upon as the Dordogne. [Montgolfières Du Périgord](#) will take you on a magical journey through the skies and kids between 7-12 go on a reduced rate!



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR KIDS



CROWD PLEASER: BEST ACTIVITIES

Cave Adventures



There are loads of caves in and around the Dordogne, [Gouffre de Padirac](#) is a particularly dramatic example. The descent into the depths is truly impressive!



Go for a Spin



Dordogne is the ideal place to explore by bike! And If you don't want to lug your own cycle over, there are plenty of hire places to choose from – [Liberty Cycle](#) are well worth taking a look at when it comes to hiring!



Paddle the Dordogne



A time-honoured way of enjoying the best of the Dordogne is on the river and hiring a canoe is a great way to start! Try [Canoe Roquegeoffre Port D'Enveaux](#) they will even tell you what routes to take!



Market Delights



The charmingly rustic French market is not to be missed. Have a poke about to find everything from antiques to local delicacies. [Sarlat Market](#) is all about the food, so head along to stock up your villa kitchen!



Garden Stroll



There are loads of French mansion houses and country estates to be explored! [Jardin Eyignac](#) opens its beautiful gardens to visitors, along with a number of workshops for visitors to enjoy.



Cabaret Time



With theatre, opera, music and film, there's bound to be something that you'll find entertaining and enlightening. For something a little risqué, try the cabaret shows at [Le Music Hall](#).



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR GROUPS





FOODIE FINDS



Bergerac Wine Tours

[Bergerac Wine Tours](#) are great if you want to learn more about the region's wine making heritage – they'll even pick you up from your villa and take you around selected vineyards and wineries in the region.



La Pate a Max

[La Pate a Max](#) is Ideal if you fancy a change from the standard French fare – its speciality is homemade pasta in a range of mouth-watering sauces, vegetarian options are also available.



Le Chèvrefeuille

Want to take some of the South of France's cuisine back ? [Le Chèvrefeuille Cookery School](#) will take you on a market tour to grab some ingredients before teaching you their cooking secrets.



Restaurant L'Essential

[Restaurant L'Essential](#) is a compact Michelin-approved restaurant and is a fantastic starting point for gourmands who want to sample first-rate French food and sensational wines under the same roof!



MG Burger

[MG Burger](#) is far from your average burger joint. You can enjoy French twists on the beefy staple including foie gras and gambas. Bread for the burgers is baked and kneaded in-house daily.



Dishes to Try

The local goat's cheese is known as **cabécou** and well worth sniffing out. Dine out on **magret de canard** (pan-fried duck breast from the Moulard breed)
The Dordogne is also famous for its **walnuts!**

MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR FOODIES





We'd like to think we know travel pretty well. Since we first hatched [Oliver's Travels](#) in 2003 it's been essentially all we've talked about. You could call us obsessed.

Our extensive [blog](#), Oliver's Journal has got tons of information and inspiration on locations across Europe and the Caribbean. It's a one-stop shop for family-friendly holiday fun, the best group activities, foodie finds and a good dose of adventure. If you found this travel guide useful, (we hope you did!), you can find a whole host more on the blog, too!

At Oliver's Travels we don't do ordinary. From family [villas in France](#) and [large holiday homes in the UK](#), to Mediterranean [villas with pools](#) and [Caribbean beach villas](#), we have something for everyone, everywhere.



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0800 133 7999

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