

Dordogne Holidays

Welcome to No.3, Champagnac, a 150 year old farmhouse in the western Dordogne



TOURIST INFORMATION

There is a selection of guidebooks on the bookshelves which you are welcome to use during your stay. You will find tourist information brochures in a file on the bookcase.

We are still getting to the know area ourselves, but the following are highlights:

Riberac: The bustling market town of Riberac 4 miles away has supermarkets, banks, cafes, restaurants, and its famous Friday farmers market is not to be missed. There is a useful tourist office in the Place du Général de Gaulle. Canoe and cycle hire are available from the campsite just across the Dronne on the Angouleme Road. There are free music evenings in the square on Tuesday nights in July and August.

Aubeterre-sur-Dronne: This picturesque hill-top village is 7 miles away and is designated one of “the most beautiful villages in France”. The highlight is the underground rock church, and there is a selection of restaurants and shops around the central square. It is a good base for canoe hire (by the bridge as you enter), and there is a river beach and children’s play area.

Lusignac to the north west of Riberac is a lovely village with wonderful views and a popular bar/restaurant with outdoor eating area.

Bourdeilles is a pretty village on the River Dronne just over 20 miles away. Its chateau is open to the public and is beautifully furnished.

Brantôme lies just beyond Bourdeilles and is known rather ambitiously as the Venice of the Perigord. It is a very pretty town situated on an almost circular loop of the Dronne, and gets crowded in the summer. You can visit the old abbey with its Romanesque belfry, explore the caves, take your pick of the restaurants, picnic in the gardens, or just enjoy wandering around.

St.Jean-de-Cole, beyond Brantôme on the road to Thiviers, is one of our favourite villages. It has a beautiful church and chateau, pretty lanes, and several restaurants. Nearby are the 16th century **Chateau de Puyquilhem**, and the **Grotte de Villars**, with its stalagmites and stalactites and ancient cave paintings – worth a visit if you don’t want to make the drive to Lascaux.

Perigeux and **Bergerac** are both around 30 miles away. They have their cobbled medieval and renaissance quarters, old churches and cathedrals, and a selection of museums, and offer a range of shops and restaurants. You can take river trips on the Isle and Dordogne respectively. Both picturesque **St. Emilion** (45 miles) a world heritage site with its famous vineyards, and the impressive **Chateau de Hautefort** (55 miles) are well worth the journey (see guide books for details).

The sights of the central Dordogne, including the caves of **Lascaux** (60 miles), the medieval town of **Sarlat** (nearly 80 miles), and the beautiful drive along the river itself, make a wonderful day trip if you have the time.

The city of **Bordeaux** is 65 miles away and offers a magnificent waterfront along the Garonne, and fine boulevards and squares (as well as excellent shopping).

SPORT

There are many beautiful **walks** in the area (see map on the hall wall and guides in the file). You can pick up guided walks from many tourist offices.

Canoeing on the nearby River Dronne or further away on the Dordogne is great both for the beginner and the more experienced. You can choose the length of your trip, and the hire companies will collect you from the end so you only need canoe with the current!

Cycle hire and **horse-riding** are available locally: see tourist information brochures.

The lake-beach at La Jemaye is only 8 miles away. Follow the D708 south, and turn left just after La Jemaye village, signposted to La Grand Etang de La Jemaye. It offers **swimming**, **fishing**, **woodland walks**, children's play area, cafes, and picnic areas.

The nearest **golf** is the 9-hole course at the Manoir de Longeveau northeast of Aubeterre, where there are also tennis courts and a bar, run by British owners. There are 18 hole courses at Perigeux, Angouleme, Bordeaux, and the Chateau de Vigiers west of Bergerac, but we have not yet had chance to test them!