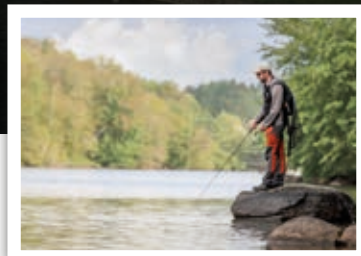
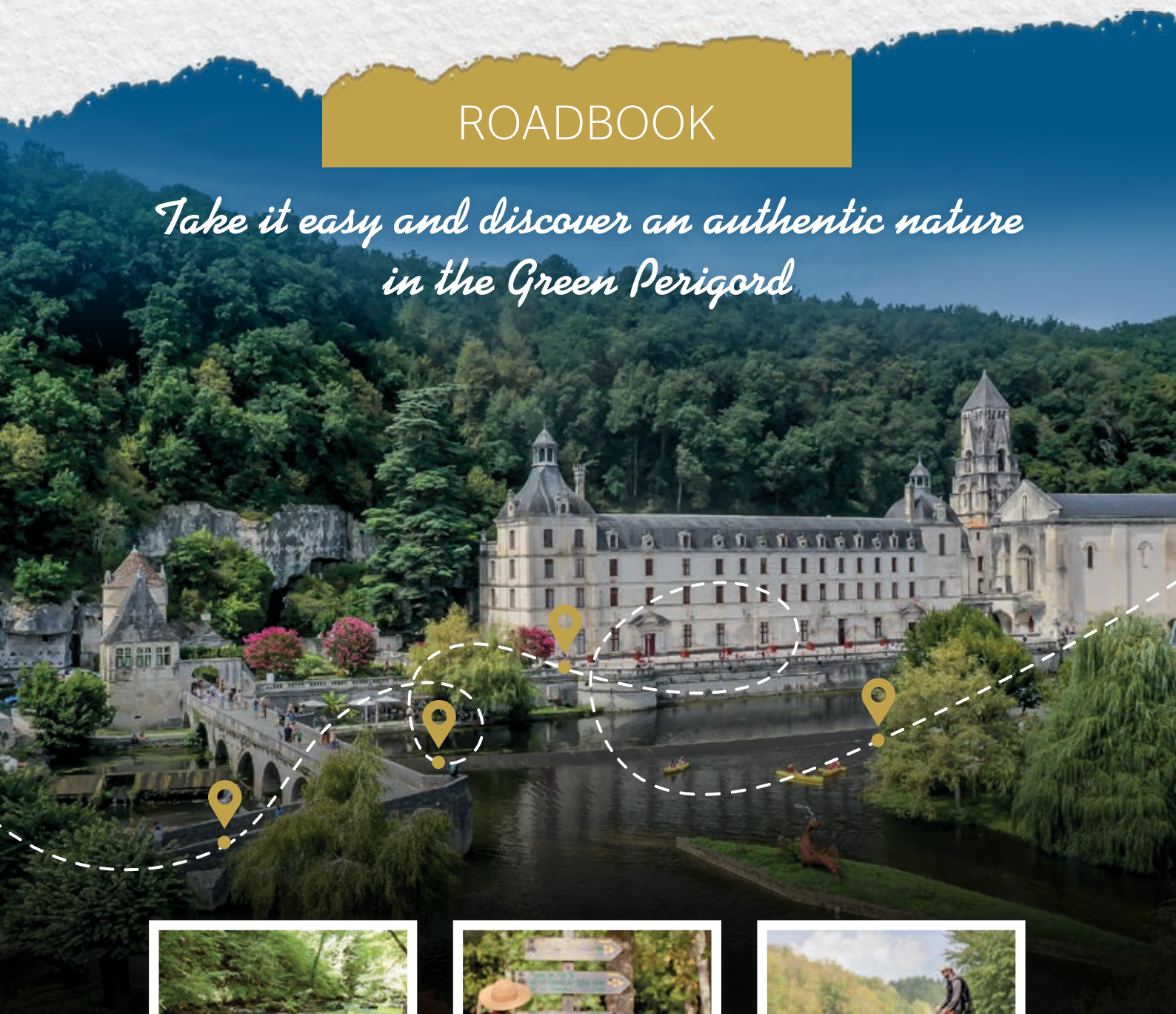


Journey to the Green Perigord

{ READY-MADE TOURS FROM 1 TO 4 DAYS }

ROADBOOK

*Take it easy and discover an authentic nature
in the Green Perigord*



DORDOGNE
PÉRIGORD
TOURISME FRANCE

Édition 2022/2023



The Green Perigord,

come in and breathe!



This Road Book guides you through the northern part of the Perigord, also called **Green Perigord** (In French the Périgord Vert), a region where water and nature create a **lush environment**. Water, limestone and granites, wooded hills and massive houses dominate the landscapes. The French author Jules Vernes wrote that this region was a **peaceful heaven** full of treasures, where it's impossible to say which one between Human Being and Mother Nature, is the most wonderful artist.

From the shady roads you are going to see many vestiges of a glorious past and **castles** located in the heart of narrow valleys or at the top of a hill... but surely close to a pond or a stream! Take your time to stroll in the alley of **little towns**, traces of the past are to be seen: medieval houses, Renaissance mullion windows, half-timbered buildings...

The quietness of this region is only an appearance: the Green Perigord was full of activities, such as the hard work in the fields, in the former vineyard, in the forges, or work made by the weavers...The battles between the French and the English in the 14th and 15th centuries, and later on between the Catholics and the Huguenots, were also taking place here. The traces of the Past are still visible in the landscapes: **castles, abbeys, small villages surrounding the parish church, forges, water mills, weaver's workshop...** An important number of **museums** reflects all those activities and the industrial richness of this area.

Farmers and breeders are waiting for you on the **markets**, in their **farms**, or on the table of the many **restaurants** : they are providing a high quality of products such as goose or duck **Foie Gras**, the delicate **truffle**, **walnut** productions, **chestnuts**, and honeys of different colours...

The Périgord Vert is also a nice place for nature sports fans: **hiking, water sports, cliff climbing, equestrian walks or fishing.**



Day 1

A story of water and stones

PÉRIGUEUX - CASTLE OF
BOURDEILLES - BRANTÔME

≈ 35 km



1 Zoom on



Museum of Art and Archeology of the Périgord

The MAAP

In Périgueux you might be interested to discover the **Museum of Art and Archeology of the Périgord (MAAP)**. Created in the 19th century, this museum displays the extraordinary richness of the history of the Périgord, from Prehistory on. The collection is the 4th biggest of France with European, African and Oceanian pieces of art.

2 Cast a glance... 

From Périgueux, head to the North, on D939. **Château-l'Evêque**, located at the top part of the village, is a castle with a keep built by the bishop Frotaire to protect the city of Périgueux from the Vikings coming the river up. Fortified in the 14th century, it was used after the Hundred Years War as a residence by the bishops of Périgueux to withdraw from political unrest. Today, it looks like a nice mix between Gothic and Renaissance Art. The present owner, Gérard de Colombières, is restoring the castle and opens part of it to the public as well as the gardens planted with 700 hydrangeas and multi-centenarians' yews.



Castle of Bourdeilles

3

The Castle of Bourdeilles

Overhanging the Dronne River, the castle of Bourdeilles is composed of a **medieval fortress** and a nice **Renaissance Palace**. The fortress was built from the 12th century on, and you may walk up the steps of a keep 40m high. In the Renaissance part you will discover one of the richest furniture collections dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries and coming from France, Flanders, Italy, and Spain! Bourdeilles, seat of one of the 4 baronies of the Périgord region, housed the writer Brantôme, abbot of the neighbouring abbey of the same name, and author in his *Memoirs of happy chronicles* about his times, full of inglorious details and gossip, notably in *Les Dames Galantes* (The Gallant Ladies). An **Escape Game** with an augmented virtual reality headset allows to discover in a funny way the 4 main periods of the castle.

Château-l'Evêque



4

Zoom on

In **Bourdeilles**, stroll along the **Dronne river** and cross the medieval bridge, pass close to the watermill of the seigneurie, walk around the alleys to discover the bread oven, the old houses, the rocky spur supporting the **castle** and its fortifications, the traces of ancient dwellings left in the rock... one of the most charming villages of the Périgord where every corner allows photographers to use the camera!

Then, to reach **Brantôme**, take the banks of the Dronne on the D106e, for a bucolic discovery, and pass by the rocks of the so called **Forge du Diable** (Devils Forge): Mother Nature is a high-flying artist!



Brantôme

Brantôme

The riverbed of the Dronne leaving a limestone cliff with **troglodytic habitats** is at the origin of the abbey and the irresistible small town with historic square surrounded by the water... hence its nickname **Green Venice of the Périgord**.

The gaze is then drawn towards **one of the oldest bell towers of France**, and surprisingly, it is not built on the church, however directly on the rock of the cliff and dominates the remains of the **Abbey of Brantôme** which buildings have been modified several times.

The abbey also hides in the cliff, an amazing and mysterious low-relief of which we do not know part of the origins and the precise meaning as it resembles no other «Last Judgment».



Discover Brantôme with Terra Aventura, a funny and cultural geocaching app, let yourself be guided, answer questions and find the cache with Poi'zZéidon. The app is free and easy to use, otherwise go to the Tourist Office to print the route.



Bourdeilles

Sites

- **Museum of Art and Archéologie of the Périgord - Périgueux**
www.perigueux-maap.fr
- **Museum Vésunna - Périgueux**
www.perigueux-vesunna.fr
- **Castle of Château-l'Évêque**
www.chateau-de-chatealeveque.com
- **Castle of Bourdeilles**
www.chateau-bourdeilles.fr
- **Brantôme : abbey, troglodytes dwellings, Museum Fernand Desmoulin**
<https://perigord-dronne-belle.fr>

Accommodations

- **Gîte les Sénéchaux - Bourdeilles**
www.chateaudessenechaux.com
- **Bed & Breakfast Les deux abbesses en Vert - Mareuil**
www.lesdeuxabbessesenvert.fr
- **Bed & Breakfast l'Ambroisie - Bourdeilles**
www.dordogne-perigord-tourisme.fr
- **Hôtel-restaurant Charbonnel - Brantôme**
www.hotelrestaurantcharbonnel.com
- **Hostellerie du Périgord Vert - Brantôme**
www.hotel-hpv.fr
- **Hostellerie Les Griffons - Bourdeilles**
www.griffons.fr
- **Le Château de la Côte - Biras**
www.chateau-hotel-dordogne.com
- **Camping Peyrelevade - Brantôme**
www.camping-dordogne.net

Day 2

Time travel...
with an immersion
in Prehistory

BRANTÔME - CAVE OF VILLARS - ABBEY
OF BOSCHAUD - CASTLE OF PUYGUILHEM

≈ 30 km



1

Cast a
glance...



Dolmen de Peyrelevade



For megaliths 'fans, on the way to Villars, stop at the exit of Brantôme to admire the most famous dolmens of the Dordogne: the **dolmen of Peyrelevade**, which means «raised stone» in the Occitan language.

Built on the right bank of the Dronne River, it was replaced in the 19th century to keep its sandstone table at its place.

Nearby, in Condat-sur-Tricou, another dolmen has got the same name: this one has a red sandstone table and is located on the north bank of the Côle.

The Villars Caves is having 13 km of underground networks with magnificent natural concretions highlighted by an amazing sound and light show that bring us back to 200,000 years ago.

This cave is also known for its paintings made by the Cro-Magnon people more than 19,000 years ago. These prehistoric paintings are the artistic expression of real artists, men and women and their complex cultural universe: the round of horses, Ibexes, bison and even a rare human representation fascinates the visitor since its discovery by a group of speleologists of Périgueux in 1953.

Take time in the so-called prehistoric garden, to discover who they were and how they lived: a fun and educational area that allows you to discover Cro-Magnon and its environment around its daily activities.



2



3

The Castle of Puyguilhem

Close by, experience a visit to Puyguilhem and its imposing silhouette that can be seen from the road at the entrance of the village of Villars! Pierre Mondot de la Marthonie, 1st President of the Parliament in Paris, transformed the fortified house of Puyguilhem into a Renaissance residence modelled on the castles of the Loire Valley. Some elements recall the Gothic style, such as the asymmetry of the building and some interior elements. However, the castle remains characteristic of its time with an elegant Renaissance façade and an impressive carved fireplace representing the works of Hercules. Abandoned and looted, the castle was bought by the French State and restored by the architect Yves-Marie Froidevaux. Walkers will appreciate the 8.8 km hike from Villars, which takes you from the fortified church of the village to the castle of Puyguilhem and passes near the cave of Villars!



Abbey of Boschaud

4

Our favorite



The Cistercian Abbey of Boschaud

bears its name from the topographical configuration of the site: Bosco Cavo which is Latin translates as "hollow wood" or "wooded dell". The 12th century abbey will be destroyed during the Religious War and partially rebuilt. The 19th century and its romantic taste for ruins will rediscover the buildings and release the surroundings. Today, the visitor discovers the typical Perigordian style that was widely spread during the Romanesque period : a vaulting with a row of cupolas on pendentives.

With the help of interpretation panels, don't miss the discovery of this treasure of architecture. It put an emphasize on its history and on the uses of this Historical Monument classified since 1950.

Today, the Festivillars association animates the site by organizing high-quality cultural events (events calendar on the website www.festivillars.com)



Castle of Puyguilhem

Sites

- **Cave of Villars**
<https://grotte-villars.com>
- **Castle of Puyguilhem - Villars**
www.chateau-puyguilhem.fr
- **Abbey of Boschaud - Villars**
<https://perigord-dronne-belle.fr/>

Accommodations

- **Hôtel-restaurant le Moulin du Roc - Champagnac-de-Belair**
www.moulinduroc.com
- **Hôtel-restaurant le Moulin de l'Abbaye - Brantôme**
www.moulinabbaye.com
- **Hôtel-restaurant le Moulin de Vigonac - Brantôme**
www.moulindevigonac.com

Day 3

From villages to castles...
with gourmet breaks

SAINT-PARDOUX LA RIVIÈRE -
SAINT-JEAN DE CÔLE - THIVIERS

≈ 20 km



Heading for la “Voie Verte”

From Villars, head to Saint-Pardoux-la-Rivière via the D82e, where you can rent electric bikes: this is the starting point of the **Voie Verte** (the Green Way), a pleasant ride over 17 km track in the beautiful countryside, where pedestrians, cyclists and riders meet. It traces the route of an old railway that leads to Thiviers! This Green Way track is the first section of the **Flow Vélo** that leads from Thiviers to the Island of Aix in Charente-Maritime!

Between botanical and heritage treasures, the road “route” will lead you, among others, near one of the Most Beautiful Villages of France, **Saint-Jean-de-Côle**: after a 12 km ride along the Green Way, arrive at the old railway station, on your right is the access to the village, its 1.5 km detour... but this is a must-see detour!



Saint-Jean-de-Côle is a picturesque village with medieval origins. This village has a rich cultural heritage and an authentic charm. In the heart of the village, with its well-restored half-timbered houses and alleys decorated with flowers, you will find **La Marthonie Castle**, which can only be visited during the summer.

Next to the castle discover one of the most astonishing Romanesque churches of the Périgord: **the Saint-Jean-Baptiste church** of the Priory of Saint-Jean-de-Côle, dating from the end of the 11th century. It is composed only of an apse surrounded by radiant chapels and was once surmounted by a vast cupola, now disappeared. In 2006 during working construction, they carried out tombs from babies dating back from medieval time.

Leaving the church, continue your way to the Côle river that crosses the village to admire the view towards the church and the village from the other side of the medieval bridge.

Our
favorite

3

Continue on the Green Way to **Thiviers**. Stroll through the small shops of the city centre and make a detour to the Tourist Office for a true showcase of local products! The shop offers a selection of foie gras, from duck to goose foie gras, from a stronger to a more delicate taste, as well as many other local products: walnut oil, wines, truffle, honey... Something to delight your taste buds. Enjoy!

4

Cast a glance



Saut du Chalard

Head to the Regional **Natural Park of Perigord-Limousin** for a short walk of 2 km, very popular by locals, which leads to the so called “**Saut du Chalard**”, a charming waterfall in a beautiful natural site! The departure is from the hiking sign of the village of Champs Romain, but the end of the journey will be done walking!



foie gras tasting

Sites

- **Castle of la Marthonie**
www.perigord-limousin-tourisme.com
- **Castle of Jumilhac**
<http://chateaudejumilhac.com>

Accommodations

- **Cabanes perchées O bois dormant - Lempzours**
www.o-bois-dormant.voyage
- **Gîtes du Moulin de Feuyas - Saint-Romain Saint-Clément**
www.moulindefeuyas.fr
- **Hôtel de France et de Russie - Thiviers**
<https://thiviers-hotel.com/>

5

heading for Jumilhac Castle !



Jumilhac Castle

Emblematic figure of the Eastern part of the Green Perigord, the imposing **castle of Jumilhac-le-Grand** still owned by the same family since the XVI th C., reinvents the traditional way to visit a castle. A strong link between the castle and the gardens predominates: the personality of the Marquis de Jumilhac still reflects on the site today, and the gardens are discovered through alchemy, gold and history!

Day 4

Slow visit and know-how
in the Périgord-Limousin
regional natural Park

**NONTRON - PIÉGUT PLUVIERS -
BUSSIÈRE BADIL - VARAIGNES**

≈ 30 km



Cutlery Manufacture of Nontron

Nontron, a highlight

For the local people, the brand **Couteau de Nontron** bears the name of the village of its birth and every Perigordian has one in his pocket!

The iron ore, nontronite, is used to make sharp blades since the Celts. Add to it the boxwoods for the manufacture of the handles and the cold water of the Bandiat which flows at the bottom of the village and you will have all the ingredients to manufacture the famous pocket knife with the mysterious acronym, whose origins are lost in the legend.

The **Cutlery Manufacture of Nontron** (Coutellerie Nontronnaise) has been awarded «Living Heritage Company»: today, about twenty cutlermen are working there! You will learn all the stages of the artisanal manufacture of the Nontron knife during your visit.

2 Cast a glance



The **Gardens of Arts** was designed and crafted in 2003 on the site of the former castle park in Nontron. This beautiful botanical garden is planted of Lebanon cedars, peonies from China, or maples from Japan. Discover about twenty terraces, arranged by exceptional artists and craftsmen, where different plant species mingle with artworks from various horizons.



Gardens of Arts

3



Market of Piégut-Pluviers

From Nontron head to the North on the Route des Charentaises to reach **Piégut-Pluviers**, a tiny town known for its large market that takes place every Wednesday morning selling local produce and wares. Here, local producers, barges, inhabitants, walkers, colours, smells and the typical market noises mingle. It is said, «Who hasn't seen Piégut, hasn't seen a market!»? They ask each other, they greet each other, they tell each other, they speak to each other in dialect, Limousin Occitan, French, English amongst other languages...

Tip for families: if you go to the Tourist Office of Piégut-Pluviers, you can get a geocaching game to discover the history of Piégut in a funny way. Dive into the captivating universe of Terra Aventura, a track game through the circuit «Who has not seen Piégut has not seen a market». A small reward awaits those who will discover all the secrets of that village!

Leaving the village, the D91 will guide you to the village of **Bussière-Badil** whose church Notre-Dame was the possession of the abbey of the Sacra di San Michele in the Piedmont region. Follow the D90 and continue your time travel by taking the road to Varaignes: the discovery of the artisanal industrial heritage continues!

4

The **castle of Varaignes** houses a weaver's workshop museum, an exceptional **Atelier-Musée des Tisserands et de la Charentaise**, tracing the history of textile activity in Périgord-Limousin, the cradle of the Charentaise. It is a very lively and bustling tourist site, still operating and where the rich history of peasant-weavers is displayed, the former textiles produced in the Perigord with hemp and wool... and especially that of the famous «Charentaise» slipper!

Zoom on



Atelier-musée des Tisserands et de la Charentaise

Since the 18th century, under the influence of the Rochefort arsenal, peasants have specialized in making ropes, to become weavers or falters to feed the naval and paper activities of the Charentes and the surrounding region of Angoulême.

Local industrial evolution ended with the first slipper workshops, created at the end of the 19th century, using unused felts. These workshops will produce a special felt for the manufacture of the famous slipper, the so called Charentaise, that will bring the wealth of the northern part of the Perigord until the crisis of the 70s.

The regional expertise, labour hemp technical sewn-back of slippers is presented. During your visit, you will discover the looms, daily peasant-weaver in the nineteenth century or contemporary textile creations.

Sites

- **Coutellerie Nontronnaise**
<https://coutellerie-nontronnaise.com>
- **Jardin des Arts**
<https://www.tourisme-nontron.fr/>
- **Atelier-musée des Tisserands et de la Charentaise**
www.dordogne-perigord-tourisme.fr
- **Lud'eau Vive**
www.dordogne-perigord-tourisme.fr

Accommodations

- **Chambres d'hôtes La Quinta - Nontron**
www.laquinta.fr
- **Le Grand Hôtel de Nontron**
www.hotel-pelisson-nontron.com
- **Camping l'Agrion Bleu - Saint-Martial-de-Valette**
www.campinglagrionbleu.com
- **Camping Parenthèses Imaginaires - Milhac de Nontron**
<https://parentheses-imaginaires.com>

5



Lud'eau Vive

Tip for families: If you want to immerse into the tradition of the weavers of Varaignes, go to the Interpretation trail of **Lud'eau vive**. You will found out through hydraulic experimentation of the uses of water energy, the history of hydraulics in Périgord-Limousin: forges, mills, sawmills, spinning and textiles, turbine and electricity, wind, environment and geology. The garden reveals textile and dye plants, used since the dawn of time ... The whole helps to enhance the local hydraulic heritage.

Usefull Addresses:

Tourists Offices

- **Office de Tourisme du Périgord Nontronnais**
www.tourisme-nontron.fr
- **Office de Tourisme Périgord-Limousin**
www.perigord-limousin-tourisme.com
- **Office de Tourisme Naturellement Périgord**
www.naturellementperigord.fr
- **Office de Tourisme Périgord Dronne Belle**
www.perigord-dronne-belle.fr

Market days

- **Piégut Pluviers** : wednesday morning
- **Thiviers** : saturday morning
- **Nontron** : saturday morning
- **Brantôme** : friday morning
- **Excideuil** : thursday morning

Bicycle rental

- **L'Atelier Cycle 24**, Saint-Pardoux-la-Rivière
www.ateliercycles24.sitew.fr
- **CD BIKE**, Brantôme en Périgord
www.cdbike.fr
- **Deen Vélo**, Thiviers
Tél. 05 53 52 52 96 ou 06 37 85 65 36

Other accomodations

- **Syndicat Départemental de l'Hotellerie de Plein Air**
www.campingsdordogneperigord.com/
- **Hôtels Logis en Dordogne**
www.logishotels.com/hotel/aquitaine/dordogne

Restaurants suggestions

- **Ferme-auberge de Faye**, near Brantôme
- **Hôtel-Restaurant Charbonnel**, Brantôme
- **La Table d'Emilie**, Brantôme
- **Le Bistrot le Saint-Pierre**, Brantôme
- **Hôtel des Voyageurs**, Payzac
- **Grand hôtel Pélisson**, Nontron
- **Hostellerie Saint- Jacques**, Saint-Saud-Lacoussière
- **Pizzeria U Laziu Pizz'** (Accueil Vélo), Thiviers
- **L'escapade des sens**, Thiviers

Water Sports and swimming



- **Plan d'eau de Rouffiac** - www.rouffiac-loisirs.fr
- **Site départemental du Grand Etang de Saint Estèphe** - www.dordogne.fr
- **Plan d'eau de loisirs de Saint-Saud-Lacoussière**
www.saintsaud.fr

What to bring home ?

- **Foie gras of duck or goose**
- **Walnut or truffle oil**
- **Truffles**
- **A Pair or two of charentaises for next winter**
- **The knives of Nontron**
- **Honey** (from example the mighty chestnut honey)

Foie gras



 Office de Tourisme

Produits Locaux



My best memories

Wow !

*A must
see* 

I can paste here, my photos memories...

My favorite sites



1

2

3

*To see
during my
next visit!*

* Sites and accommodations mentioned in this roadbook are only suggestions. A full list of sites and accommodations is available on our website: www.dordogne-perigord-tourisme.fr (in French).

DORDOGNE **PÉRIGORD**

TOURISME FRANCE

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For further information in English, please visit our website:

www.enjoydordogne.com

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