

Itinerary #7

Pre-historic journey

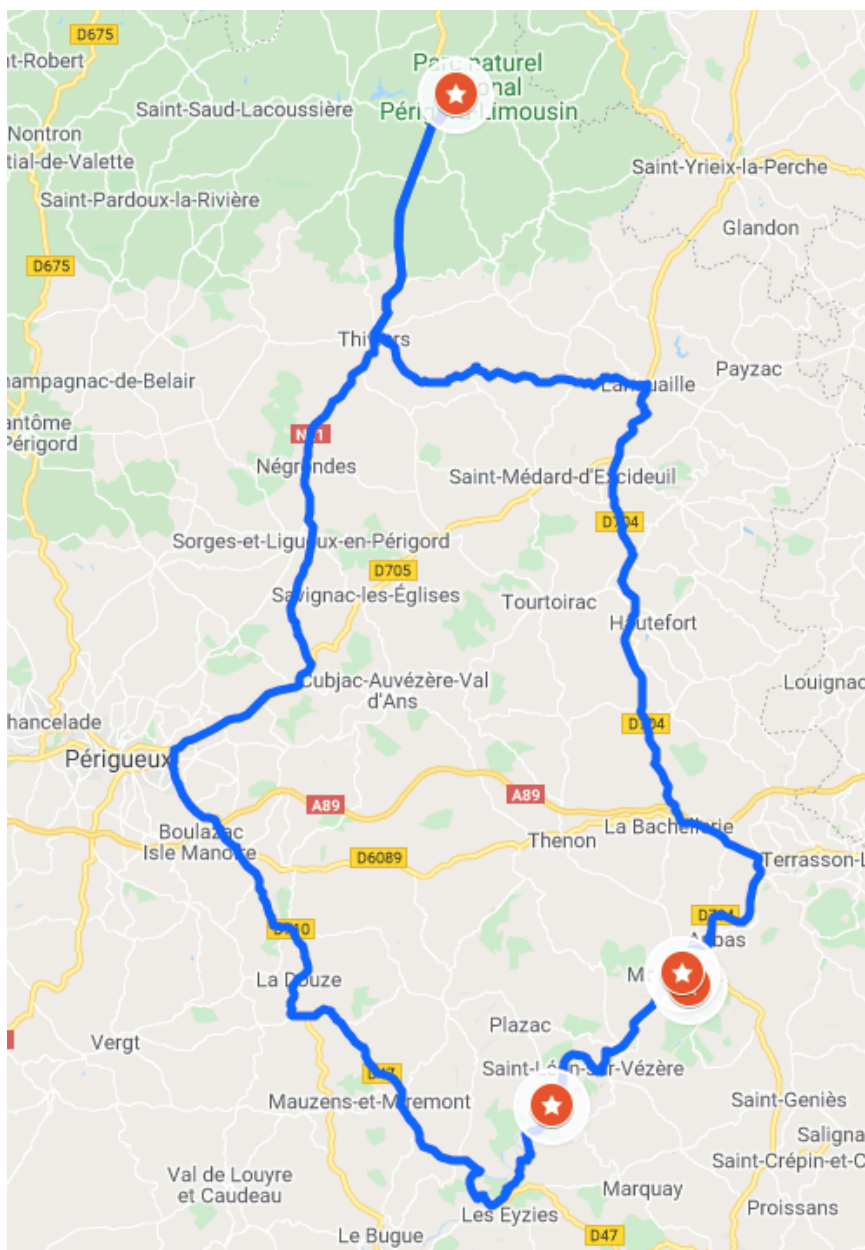


Trip Time: 8 hours *

Distance: 212 km

1:20 to Lascaux	(85 km)
0:02 to Montignac	(1 km)
0:20 to La Roque St Christophe	(15 km)
1:40 to Bonne Routes	(111 km)

**timing depends on meal options and length of time spent in museums/sites outside of those indicated.*



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Main Sites

Lascaux IV



2.5 hour visit

The original cave discovered in 1940 was closed to the public in 1963 to preserve the cave paintings. A replica cave was created (Lascaux II) which can still be visited today. The newest Lascaux IV experience is situated in a half-buried building at the foot of the Lascaux hill, with a gigantic glass front. It offers the most complete replica of the original cave using current technology, showing all of the original paintings, and took three years to complete.

Digital tablets provide a new technological experience - a real guide takes you through the reproduction of the cave and then leaves you to a self-guided experience using your tablet. Real guides are available in each of the theme rooms to answer questions.

Visit the Belvédère (roof) via a lift to look over the Vézère Valley, listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. Scanning the landscape on your tablet will present a virtual reality map pinpointing the location of all surrounding major archaeological sites. Enter the shelter where you get a virtual reality experience of the Lascaux hill from 20,000 years ago up to the time the cave was found.

While Lascaux II and Lascaux IV are not the 'real' cave and the paintings are replicas, it still offers a fabulous insight into history and the chance to see the cave paintings that are now hidden from view in the original Lascaux cave.

***Note:** Lascaux IV: at 20 € a person you need to be interested in this attraction and immerse yourself in it to get the most out of the entrance fee. However, this is on the route to La Roque St Christophe, so if you want to skip this site you can still follow the main itinerary and maybe spend more time in Les Eyzies*

Montignac



1 hour visit + lunch

The old town North of the river has a maze of streets with fourteenth- to sixteenth-century timbered houses. Pick up a map from the tourist office showing a route around the town including all main highlights.

There are a number of restaurants overlooking the river offering outside dining where you could stop for lunch including:

- Les Pilotis (traditional, meats, salads, pizza)
- Le Triskell (creperie)
- Aux Berges la Vézère (traditional and pizza)
- La Chaumiere (Southern France/Perigordian)

La Roque St Christophe



1 hour visit

This site has been occupied as early as prehistoric times and is the largest troglodyte site in Europe. In medieval times a fort and city took shape here halfway up the cliff stretching 80 m high and 1 km long. Visit the remnants of the dwellings that once covered this section of the cliff, and the steps and passages that linked the buildings. There are various reconstructions at the site, showing the dwellings as they would have been with replica winches to lift large rocks up the cliff face and 3D film presentation on the terrace.

There are guided tours in French but information panels are in English so you can walk around freely to explore at your own pace. The views over the Vézère valley are not to be missed and the driving route is spectacular.

The return drive takes you through Les Eyzies with numerous riverside restaurants that you could dine at before returning to Bonnes Routes. There is a car park on the left as you enter the village.