

# LASCAUX IV

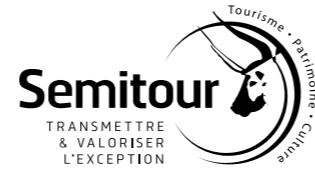
PRESS KIT 2024



DORDOGNE-PÉRIGORD

# LASCAUX

# SEMITOUR PÉRIGORD PASSING DOWN & PROMOTING OUTSTANDING CULTURAL HERITAGE



**ANDRÉ BARBÉ**  
Semitour Périgord Managing Director

Under André Barbé's helm, Semitour Périgord has been the main operator of cultural and visitor sites in the Dordogne area for over 20 years and welcomed over 800,000 international visitors every year.

We are committed to upholding and constantly improving the standard of our visitor experience using our expertise as a management company overseeing eight major sites, including the iconic Lascaux IV International Centre for Cave Art, and two accommodation and leisure sites.

We promise to provide the ultimate in hospitality, innovative tours, accessible experiences and a first-class cultural provision to give visitors an unforgettable dive into our outstanding cultural heritage!

*"We are proud of our role as custodians and want to elevate, promote and pass down this outstanding heritage. We also want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to experience it. We use an ever-innovative approach to spark curiosity and wonder to get people thinking about our history and mankind."*

*We would like every visitor to join us on this cultural adventure exploring the many sides of our heritage and soaking up this timeless experience."*

**ANDRÉ BARBÉ**

## SEMITOUR PÉRIGORD SITES



**TRAVEL AGENCY**  
Semitour Périgord

- 1 LASCAUX IV, INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
- 2 LASCAUX II
- 3 THOT PARK
- 4 LAUGERIE BASSE PREHISTORIC SHELTERS
- 5 GRAND ROC CAVE
- 6 CADOUIN CLOISTER
- 7 CHÂTEAU DE BIRON
- 8 CHÂTEAU DE BOURDEILLES

- CAMPSES AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES:**
- 9 Rouffiac Lake campsite and leisure area
  - 10 Saint Estèphe Lake campsite and apartments

- RESTAURANTS:**
- A Le Moulin Du Grand Etang
  - B Le Moulin Du Grand Etang
  - C Restaurant du Lac de Rouffiac
  - D Café Lascaux in Lascaux-Montignac

## SEMITOUR IN FIGURES

**8**  
CULTURAL  
SITES

**2**  
ACCOMMODATION  
AND LEISURE SITES

**1**  
TRAVEL AGENCY  
ATOUT FRANCE ACCREDITATION

**4**  
RESTAURANTS

**21,000**  
YEARS  
OF HUMAN  
HISTORY

**3**  
UNESCO WORLD  
HERITAGE SITES

**4**  
MONUMENTS  
HISTORIQUES  
SITES

**1**  
GEOLOGICAL  
SITE

**4**  
MAJOR  
PREHISTORIC  
SITES

**2**  
CHÂTEAUX  
(MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE)

## A DESTINATION DEEP IN FRANCE

### BY CAR

PARIS/TOULOUSE: A20 MOTORWAY  
LYON/BORDEAUX: A89 MOTORWAY

4 hr PARIS  
4 hr LYON  
3 hr TOULOUSE  
1 hr 15 BORDEAUX

### BY PLANE

BERGERAC DORDOGNE-PERIGORD AIRPORT  
BRIVE-VALLÉE DE LA DORDOGNE AIRPORT  
Orly-Brive daily service - [www.hop.com](http://www.hop.com)

### BY TRAIN

PÉRIGUEUX STATION  
BRIVE-LA-GAILLARDE STATION  
PÉRIGUEUX > PARIS 4 HRS BY HIGH-SPEED TRAIN  
VIA BORDEAUX



# CONTENTS

**p5**

The Vézère Valley's listing and its place in prehistory

**p6**

The 4 Lascaux

**p8**

The dawn of the Lascaux IV project

**p9**

Site map

**p10**

The Belvedere and Shelter

**p10**

The cave

**p14**

The Lascaux Studio

**p15**

The Cave Art Theatre

**p16**

The Cinema, the Fault and the Inventors' Wall

**p17**

The Imaginary Gallery

**p18**

The Immersion Room and its new show

**p20**

Experiences available

**p24**

Lascaux and its labels

**p28**

Lascaux one name, one legacy

**p29**

Useful information

## THE VÉZÈRE VALLEY, A TREASURE TROVE

**The "Grand Site Vallée Vézère" project got the green light from the Ministry of Ecological Transition committee on November 21st 2019. The label is awarded for six years.**

**It is the 20th Grand Site de France and 2nd site with the label in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region.**



The Vézère Valley lies deep in the Périgord Noir area and was officially listed by ministerial decree on December 11th 2015. This recognition for its sites protects and acknowledges the valley's outstanding heritage where the Vézère winds through its rocky landscapes.

Mankind has inhabited the site for thousands of years and left several reminders of prehistoric settlements (caves, troglodyte homes etc.) as well as more recent buildings (châteaux, churches etc.) that elevate the valley's appeal and reflect the historical interest of the site.

The Vézère Valley also has UNESCO World Heritage status for 15 of its caves and prehistoric sites, including the famous Lascaux Cave. Lascaux Cave was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site among other prehistoric sites and caves containing cave art in October 1979.

The sheer number of unspoilt archaeological sites in the valley has seen prehistoric archaeology boom, proving why the listing is so important to science. The listing is part of a regional project covering 37 towns and villages. It began in 2009 with local communities and businesses involved in the project.



## LASCAUX CAVE: ITS DISCOVERY

### SEPTEMBER 8TH 1940:

Marcel Ravidat was walking his dog, Robot, when he found a hole on Lascaux Hill.

### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH 1940:

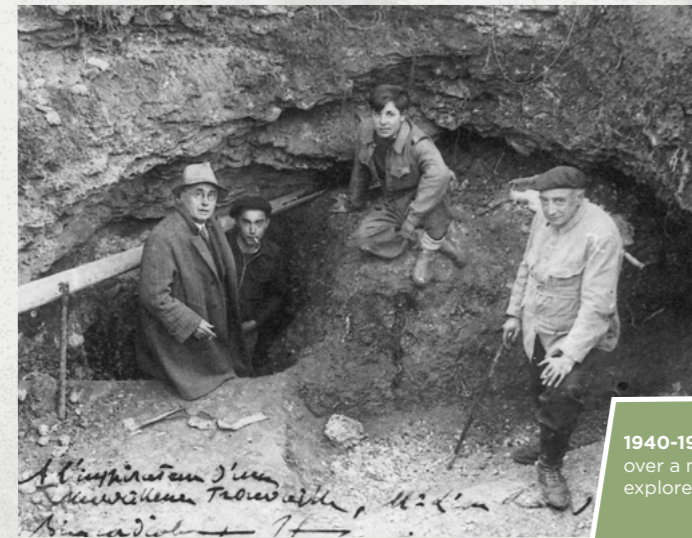
Marcel went back with his three friends: Jacques Marsal, Georges Agniel and Simon Coencas. They were the "inventors" or discoverers of the cave. This is when Lascaux's cave art was discovered.

### DECREE DATED DECEMBER 27TH 1940:

the cave was listed as a Monument Historique.

### JULY 13TH 1948:

the cave had its first visitors.



**1940-1963:**  
over a million visitors  
explored the masterpiece.

## LASCAUX CAVE: BIOCLIMATIC CRISIS

### 1955:

the first evidence of damage was found on the walls. It was caused by excess carbon dioxide due to the high number of visitors (already 30,000 per year).

### 1960:

the "green disease" caused by algae and "white disease" caused by calcite spread through the cave. Both were discovered by the cave's curator, Max Sarradet.

### 1962:

green algae caused by colony formations spread further; there were 100,000 visitors a year peaking at 1800 people per day in summer.

### APRIL 20TH 1963:

The Cultural Minister André Malraux decided to shut down the cave and close it to the general public because of the damage to the paintings.



**OCTOBER 1979:**  
the original cave was listed as  
UNESCO World Heritage

## THE LASCAUX II ADVENTURE

### 1972:

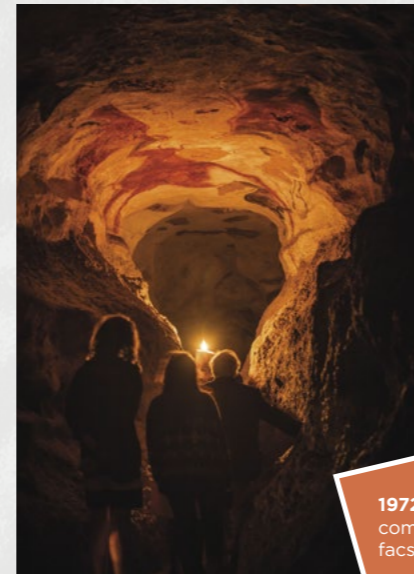
the owner gave the cave to the French government but retained copyright for 30 years. Based on this agreement, the French government decided to build a replica of part of the original cave.

### JULY 18TH 1983:

the replica opened to visitors 200m from the original and was called "Lascaux II".

### TODAY:

along with Lascaux IV, it is one of the most popular attractions in the Dordogne with 250,000 visitors a year. Over 10 million people have visited Lascaux II in the space of over 30 years.



**1972-1983:**  
completion of the  
facsimile, Lascaux II.

## LASCAUX III AROUND THE WORLD

Lascaux has toured the planet: the Dordogne Départemental Council commissioned copies of scenes appearing in Lascaux's nave, a gallery that isn't covered in Lascaux II.



It is called the "Lascaux Révélé" exhibition or Lascaux III. It is touring the world for years, flying the flag for the Dordogne and its "Valley of Mankind".

The international exhibition tour provides a brand new and immersive visitor experience using virtual reality and is coming to the Monaco Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology in April.



## LASCAUX IV

### DECEMBER 2012:

presentation of the Lascaux IV project.

### OCTOBER 18TH 2012:

the jury chose the Norwegian firm Snøhetta from over 80 international architects.

### FEBRUARY 24TH 2014:

the building permit was issued.

### APRIL 24TH 2014:

The Culture Minister Aurélie Filippetti laid the first stone of Lascaux IV.

### JUNE 2014:

work began on Lascaux IV.

### MARCH 6TH 2015:

the 15 year management contract between Dordogne Council and Semitour was signed.

### DECEMBER 10TH 2016:

French President François Hollande inaugurated the site.

### DECEMBER 15TH 2016:

Lascaux IV, an 11,000m<sup>2</sup> complex, opened to the public. It had its millionth visitor in 2019.





# HOW THE PROJECT BEGAN

## Ringfencing

The Advisory Committee in charge of the site recommended completely ringfencing Lascaux Hill to secure the cave's future and protect it. This recommendation dictated the location for the project at the bottom of the hill.

The Lascaux IV site in Montignac-Lascaux is on the border between the Vézère Valley and Lascaux Hill. It is a landscape-building that feels like an incision in a horizontal fault.



## Snøhetta was the firm chosen for the project

On October 18th 2012, the jury chose the Norwegian firm Snøhetta from over 80 international architects. Snøhetta was founded in 1989 and is run by Craig Dykers and Kjetil Trædal Thorsen with offices in Oslo and New York. Architects, landscape designers, interior designers and graphic designers work at the firm.

## Laying the first stone

Aurélie Filippetti, the Minister of Culture, laid the first stone of Lascaux IV on April 24th 2014.

## The choice of layout

The project's architecture is an understated design. It may not be flashy or show off its shapes or materials, but it does radiate power. The layout itself was awarded to the design agency, Casson Mann. They primarily work in the museum sector. They thought about the visitor experience and decided to adapt the settings and stories in the space.

Casson Mann is a design firm founded in 1984 to produce pioneering projects for its clients. They draw on their interior design skills to use the space itself as one of their main tools. No matter the subject, they focus on the visitor, what they think, how they feel and what they enjoy.

## Houen Prize

2023: 7 years after building Lascaux IV, the Norwegian architecture firm Snøhetta won the most prestigious award in Norwegian architecture: the Houen Prize.

The prize was founded in 1893 and recognises building projects or ensembles with the highest architectural standards. It's the third time that Snøhetta has won the Houen Prize, previously winning it for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in 2008 and the Norwegian Opera & Ballet in 2012. Snøhetta has just fully renovated the National Navy Museum in Paris and should soon be celebrating with a new prize.

# SITE MAP



- 1 ENTRANCE - TICKETS
- 2 LIFT
- 3 BELVEDERE
- 4 SHELTER
- 5 VISITOR TRAIL
- 6 CAVE
- 7 PATIO
- 8 LASCAUX STUDIO
- 9 CAVE ART THEATRE
- 10 CINEMA
- 11 IMAGINARY GALLERY
- 12 IMMERSION ROOM
- 13 GIFT SHOP
- 14 CAFÉ LASCAUX





## BELVEDERE AND SHELTER

**Lascaux IV visitors can access the belvedere overlooking the Vézère Valley.**

The visitor experience starts at the belvedere. They go up to the rooftop in a glass lift that simulates both the trip back in time and the feeling of climbing Lascaux Hill. The observation point provides unobstructed views of the Vézère Valley. It's the perfect time for the guide to discuss Lascaux's surroundings in the Palaeolithic Age.

An immersive screen brings the Vézère Valley to life almost 20,000 years ago, when the unrecognisable Lascaux landscape looked like a steppe ruled by animals. Fast forward and the visitors are now in 1940.

The landscape has changed. A group of four teenagers cross the screen. They're heading into Lascaux woods on an adventure and ask us to join them.

# THE CAVE

**The replica reflects the entirety of the original cave open to the public, reconstructed using techniques and art from the Atelier des Fac-Similés du Périgord and Atelier Artistique du Béton.**

Inside the replica, the atmosphere is the same as a real cave. It's cool and dark. The sounds are muffled. Visitors can soak up the magic of the pieces in a true-to-life setting with as little interruption as possible. This is a space for people to reflect. The small groups of visitors are joined by their guide and experience as intimate a tour as possible. As visitors peruse the walls, the guide provides fascinating commentary to elevate the experience.

**VISITORS ENTER A GLOOMY SPACE TO GET USED TO THE DARKNESS... THE ADVENTURE BEGINS...**



**The talus cone**  
The guide explains how the "inventors" got into the cave.



**The Hall of Bulls**  
This room is also known as the Rotunda and home to the biggest paintings in the cave.





### The Axial Gallery

This gallery's ceiling saw Abbot Henri Breuil nickname Lascaux the "Sistine Chapel of Prehistory".

Lascaux's menagerie is depicted in 10 different techniques



### The Passageway

This room is home to the cave's first drawings. The images are out of sight. There are four hundred images here and the chalk glows.

Almost 600 paintings and 1400 engravings have been found



### The Apse

The Apse is filled with a plethora of images that you won't find anywhere else in the cave. You won't know where to look first among the flood of paintings. Abbot Glory counted 1000 of them.

We still don't know the meaning behind the 400 abstract symbols running through the cave among the animal figures.



### The Nave

Some of the cave's most famous paintings are here: "The Black Cow", "The Swimming Stags" and "The Crossed Bison".

Before leaving the cave, the guide explains the cavity's extension towards the Chamber of Felines.



# LASCAUX STUDIO

## VISITORS CAN GET HANDS-ON IN THE STUDIO

After a guided tour, visitors are provided with a digital tablet to find out more about the cave and cave art. The "tour companion" provides several routes to suit different ages and is available in 9 languages. Interactive content appears as you approach the displays (videos, audio commentary, augmented reality etc.). Visitors can enjoy a fun-filled and educational experience with a whole host of things to do.



1



### Animated walls

An animated film on bare walls paired with audio commentary explains how the paintings were done.

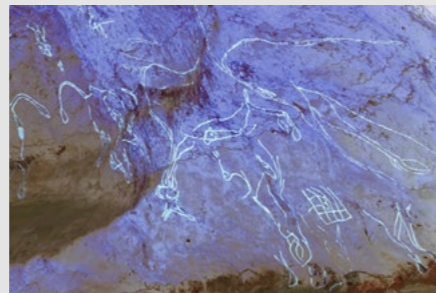
2



### The wall scan

Using their tour companion, visitors scan key paintings on the walls and unlock additional audio commentary.

3



### The hidden side of Lascaux

The Studio gives visitors the chance to explore some of the areas they can't visit during their tour of the cave.

4



### Interactive areas

Visitors use touchscreens and motion sensors to get hands on and learn through play on their own or with the family.

# THE CAVE ART THEATRE

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO STEP INTO A MODERN THEATRE OR RATHER A SERIES OF "SMALL ROOMS" THAT ARE STAGED IN THREE ACTS.

## ACT 1

### 19TH CENTURY: RESURRECTION

Visitors are taken back to the 1878 Universal Exhibition and explore the first cave art. Prehistorians were studying the discoveries and questioning their authenticity. Could cavemen really have painted these masterpieces?



## ACT 2

### 20TH CENTURY: INTERPRETATION

The show brings to life the ideas and working methods of two famous names on the prehistory scene in the 20th century: André Leroi-Gourhan and Henri Breuil. They studied the greatest archaeological discovery of the 20th century: Lascaux Cave.



## ACT 3

### 21ST CENTURY: RESEARCH

This act is all about the present and future: the incredible world of cutting-edge technology used by our researchers and archaeologists today.





## THE CINEMA



**The Cinema takes you on a deep dive into Lascaux and gives you an insight into cave art around the world.**

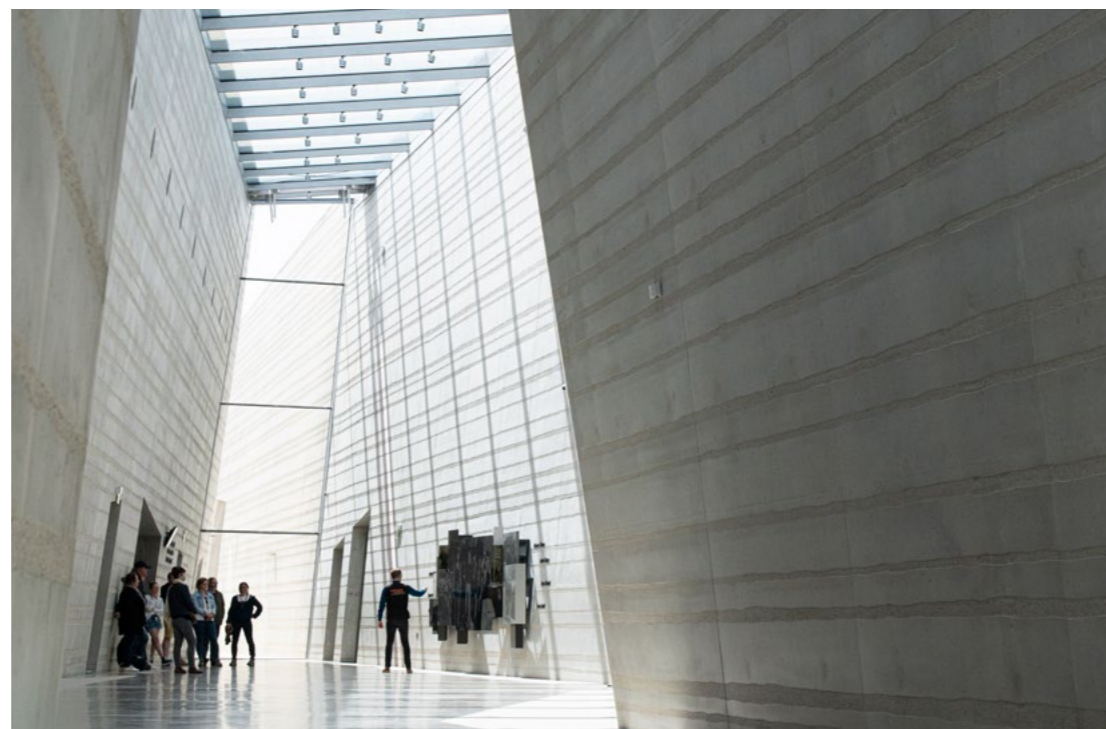
The first screen features images made from 3D plans of the original cave. The second displays clips of cave art from other caves all over the world.

The film is called "Lascaux and the World" and explores man's place in the past, present and future.

## THE FAULT AND THE DISCOVERERS' WALL

**The fault runs the length of the 8000m<sup>2</sup> building with its incredible sloping walls flooded in daylight.**

It's like a geological lasagne that shows us how time layers up and goes by...



A stop in front of the "discoverers' wall" is a milestone moment whilst in the fault. A collage of archive photos pays tribute to the people who discovered the cave.

## THE IMAGINARY GALLERY a real digital cave



**Visitors learn about the links between different pieces from cave art to contemporary art in this room. This unique exhibition surrounds them with a wall of 90 screens featuring images and artworks by famous artists such as Miró, Tàpies and Picasso.**

The philosopher and curator Jean-Paul Jouary has chosen artwork exploring the world of Lascaux. The exhibition uses techniques, themes, forms of expression and artistic inspiration to highlight the relationship between cave art and contemporary art.

There are six interactive displays. Visitors can select images to put together their own exhibition. Visitors can bring their selection of modern art and cave art images together to form an exhibit that everyone can view.

## MIRÓ, PICASSO, TÀPIES...



# THE IMMERSION ROOM

Lascaux IV opened the brand new "immersion room" in 2022 to end the visitor experience on an immersive high.

It's a great way to round off the tour and get our visitors thinking about the endless possibilities...

Following the success of the first two screenings, "Women of the Origins" in 2022 and "Our Brothers, the Animals" in 2023, Lascaux is bringing visitors a brand new show for the new year: "A Single Humanity".



## 2024 immersive show **A Single Humanity**

Dive into the origins of art in a show-stopping whirlwind of pieces that come to life around you, get your mind whirring and your heart racing!



# EXPERIENCES AVAILABLE



## VIP tour



**An exclusive torchlight tour to see Lascaux as never before... A timeless experience you won't ever forget!**

## VIP evenings

**Cave art & gastronomy**



**Who hasn't wanted to soak up an iconic site like Lascaux after closing time and experience something special?**



Now you can with the Cave Art and Gastronomy Nights: a golden opportunity to make unique memories on an extraordinary evening where the origins of mankind meet prehistoric gastronomy.



After their VIP tour, visitors indulge in a gourmet meal concocted by a Michelin-starred chef deep in Lascaux IV to make the experience even more magical.



# The storytelling Tour

**This tour is mainly available during half term and is specially designed to dazzle children on a unique 75 minute tour.**

Children join a zany "explorer" guide on an adventure in the cave before heading to the studio to end with games based on Cro-Magnon life.

Parents and guardians take the tour 10 minutes later and meet the kids at the studio on the way out of the cave.

## Here's what to expect...

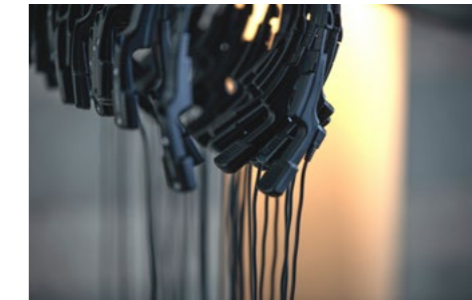
Budding explorers grab a torch and venture into Lascaux Cave on an exciting adventure that's full of surprises. A Homo sapien that lived 21,000 years ago stands before their very eyes! Our young adventurers are about to go on an incredible trip back to prehistoric times.

Suitable for children aged 5-12



## Audiotour at your own pace in 9 languages

Digital tablets are provided throughout the experience and in the immersive areas so visitors can explore the cave at their own pace and in the language of their choice. This tour is suitable for families and children and available in 9 languages.

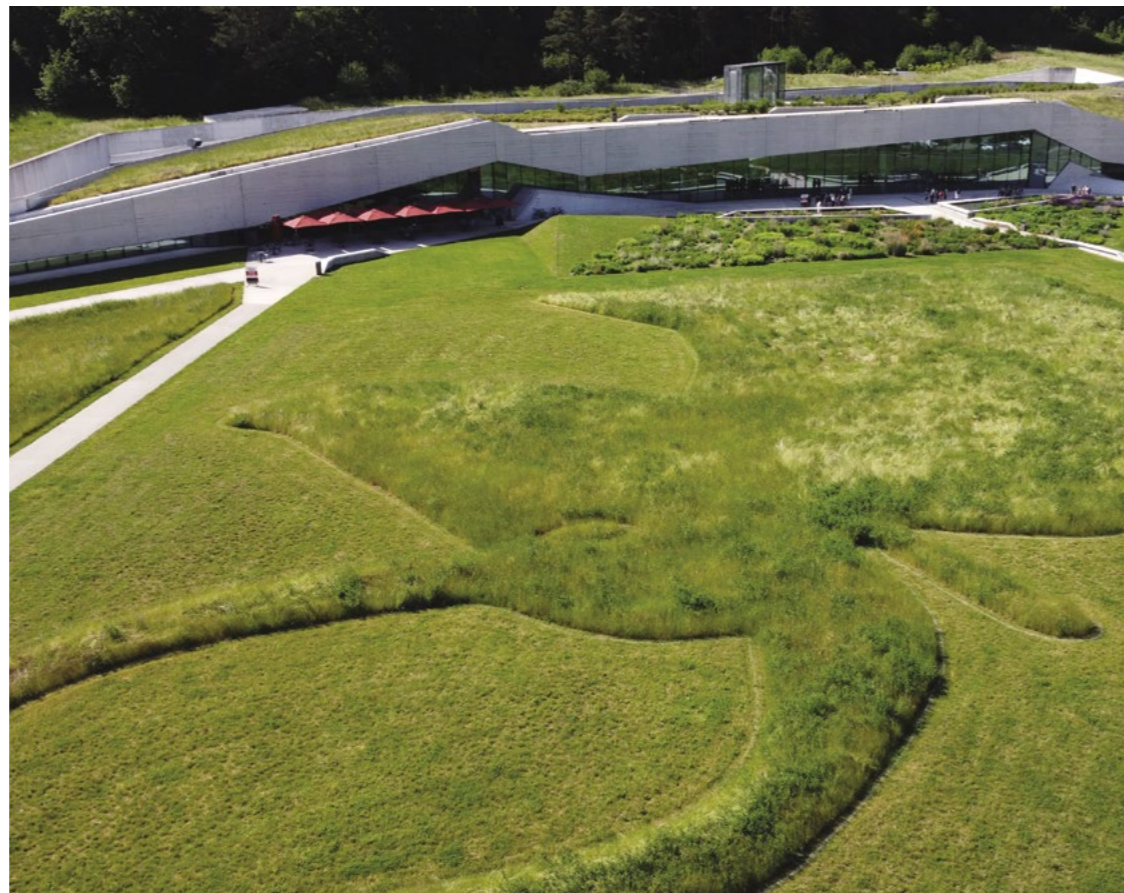




# LASCAUX AND ITS LABELS



## LASCAUX IV keeps working hard for the environment



After Lascaux IV achieved the French standard with flying colours in 2022, Semitour Périgord is keeping up the good work on its sustainable development policy in keeping with AFNOR's changing criteria. Semitour is always thinking about its site's carbon footprint and, now more than ever, wants to be part of the projects launched by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, Dordogne Départemental Council, Terrasson en Périgord Noir and Vallée de l'Homme Councils.

## 2 NEW LABELS IN 2024



### Écotourisme en Vézère

The "Écotourisme en Vézère" eco charter comes from two councils and their tourist boards: Lascaux Dordogne-Vallée Vézère Tourist Board, Vézère Périgord Noir Tourist Board & the Grand Site de la Vallée Vézère project, Terrassonnais en Périgord Noir Thenon Hautefort Council, Vallée de l'Homme Council.

The project launched in 2018-2019 to get local tourism businesses on board with sustainability. Objectives: confirm involvement, create an eco-friendly network, structure services and promote sustainable development pillars. So we're delighted that Lascaux IV is a member of the "Écotourisme en Vézère" charter, a project to make tourism more sustainable and eco-friendly in the UNESCO World Heritage site and Grand Site de France that is the Vézère Valley!



### Accueil Vélo

Green transport like cycling is booming and has seen the rise of national and local bike paths. The Dordogne is a major cycling tourism destination so Semitour Périgord is applying for the Accueil Vélo label in 2024 for its Vézère Valley sites (Lascaux IV, Lascaux II, Thot Park and Grand Roc Cave). This project ties into the initiative by the Dordogne Département and local councils in the area.

Accueil Vélo is a French brand that recognises hospitality, services and facilities for cycling tourists and greenway/bike path users. It guarantees a first-class service for cyclists in France. Getting the Accueil Vélo label proves we want to meet the needs of a wider audience: active holidaymakers and green transport users.



# A universal site and experiences to suit everyone

**Lascaux IV was awarded the "Tourisme et Handicap" disabled tourism label in 2091 for its building and providing tours to suit four types of disability (motor, learning, visual and hearing) as soon as it opened.**

**The site has continued to upgrade its visitor services to meet the demands of the Tourisme et Handicap label.**



## Motor impairment

- The site is entirely accessible for disabled visitors and wheelchair users
- It provides complimentary wheelchairs to visitors
- The touchscreens and fixtures in every room are designed to be accessible to everyone, within reach of children and wheelchair users



## Hearing impairment

- Headsets equipped with ARC technology mean people with the latest hearing aids can just put the headset on their shoulders and let the chip feed the audio into the hearing aids.
- From the start of the tour to the end, a tablet helps visitors be part of the tour with commentary designed by our guides in French sign language. This tour is also available in text format in French, English and Spanish on the same tablet. Visitors select the mode that's right for them on the app at the start of their experience
- For the rest of the tour, they can use the "subtitles" in their choice of language for audio and video content on the "tour companion". The subtitles are available in 9 languages



## Visual impairment

- The guided cave tour is designed to provide a descriptive and immersive experience for everyone
- Special puff paper booklets are available
- An option on the tour companion updates content to suit the user: colorimetry, graphic charter and font size



## Learning disabilities

Every tour guide strives to support and assist children or adults with learning difficulties in a group.

**The reception, security and guide teams all understand how to accommodate different visitors and work hard to provide the best experience for everyone.**





**Be part of passing  
down a 20,000 year  
old slice of history**

# LASCAUX

## One name, one legacy



**FONDS DE DOTATION  
LASCAUX**  
PATRIMOINE DE L'HUMANITÉ

The Lascaux, Patrimoine de l'Humanité foundation was founded in November 2018 as a non-profit organisation regulated by French legislation (n°2008-776 dated August 4th 2008).

It aims to use donations from patrons to enable more people to experience the slice of history left to us by the Lascaux artists.

### Missions

- Promote Lascaux Cave in France and abroad
- Provide access to as many people as possible
- Introduce people to cave art and prehistoric heritage with diverse and innovative cultural events

### Future projects

Exhibitions, educational projects, talks and conferences, books etc.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### OPEN FEBRUARY- DECEMBER

Opening times on  
[www.lascaux.fr](http://www.lascaux.fr)

### CONTACT DETAILS

LASCAUX IV  
Avenue de Lascaux 24290 Montignac  
Tel: +33 (0)5 53 50 99 10  
[contact@lascaux.fr](mailto:contact@lascaux.fr)  
[www.lascaux.fr](http://www.lascaux.fr)

### TICKETS

Standard (over 13s): 22€  
Children (5-12): 14.50€

### PARC DU THOT COMBI TICKET

Standard (over 13s): 26.20€  
Children (5-12): 17.20€

*Concessions for students, jobseekers and disabled visitors.*

### PREHISTORY PASS

With Thot Park and Laugerie Basse  
Prehistoric Shelters  
Standard (over 13s): 32.90€  
Children (5-12): 21.50€

### COMBI TICKET

With Laugerie Basse Prehistoric Shelters  
Standard (over 13s): 24.80€  
Children (5-12): 16.50€

### PREHISTORY AND GEOLOGY PASS

With Thot Park, Laugerie Basse Prehistoric Shelters  
and Grand Roc Cave  
Standard (over 13s): 36.70€  
Children (5-12): 24€



### PRESS AREA

Please contact us if you want to join us and visit our sites. We will put together an itinerary for your press trip.

- Visit our online press area  
<https://www.semitour.com/fr/presse>
- Explore our online photo gallery  
<https://www.semitour.com/fr/presse/phototheque>
- Video content on our YouTube channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/SemitourTV>

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