## THE UNMISSABLE CULTURAL SITES OF THE PÉRIGORD







DORDOGNE-PÉRIGORD

### PRESS RELEASE 2024









### **SEMITOUR PÉRIGORD** SHARING & PROMOTING A UNIQUE CULTURAL HERITAGE





ANDRÉ BARBÉ CEO of Semitour Périgord Under the stewardship of André Barbé, for over 20 years Semitour Périgord has been the Dordogne's foremost operator of cultural and tourist sites, each year welcoming over 800,000 visitors from around the world.

We are committed to maintaining and constantly improving the quality of the visitor experience thanks to our wealth of experience gained in managing eight major cultural sites, including the prestigious Lascaux IV International Center for Cave Art, as well as two accommodation and activities sites.

Our strength lies in an outstanding welcome, innovative tours, an inclusive visitor experience, and a cultural capital of the highest quality, all of which offers an unforgettable journey into this unparalleled cultural heritage!

"As the proud trustees of this truly exceptional cultural heritage, we are inspired to preserve, promote and share it, while ensuring it is accessible to as many visitors as possible. Our approach is constantly innovating, and seeks to spark a sense of curiosity and wonder, to make people think about our History, our Humanity.

Accompanied by our team, each visitor is invited to take part in this cultural adventure, to discover the multiple facets of our heritage and immerse themselves in this timeless experience. "

ANDRÉ BARBÉ

## KEY FIGURES

## **REVIEW OF THE 2023 HIGHLIGHTS**

## 700,000 VISITORS WELCOMED IN 2023

### AN UNPRECEDENTED INCREASE OF +20% AT THE CHÂTEAU DE BIRON

which exceeded 60,000 visitors for the year

### +17% AT THE CHÂTEAU DE BOURDEILLES

with the resounding success of the 2nd medieval and theatre seasons

## +15% AT THE PARC DU THOT

which saw an impressive increase in visitor numbers thanks to a new programme, and improvements to the park, workshops, events...

### LASCAUX II MAINTAINED ITS

**70,000** VISITORS FOR THE YEAR

### +7.5% INCREASE FOR LASCAUX IV

with a significant return of schools and international customers, in particular from far away

A new and enriched cultural programme each year that allows us to attract new visitor groups

The project between the New York's Metropolitan Museum and the Château de Biron

The *Villégiatures* concert season, which enjoyed a resounding success (+63%) to become a fixture among evening concerts

The *Médiévales de Bourdeilles* medieval events (+30% increase on 2022 and more than 2000 visitors over the weekend)

A great inaugural edition of the *Les Théatrales* event, which returns in 2024

Storytelling tours at Lascaux IV proved a great success with the public and school groups

The Christian Jegou exhibition and the film *Nos amis les animaux* at Lascaux IV which were very well received

The Gites de Maillol village to welcome seasonal workers, trainees, part-time students...

Improvements to the campsite at Rouffiac, both for group and individual accommodation

### THE SEMITOUR PÉRIGORD SITES



**TRAVEL AGENT** Semitour Périgord

- LASCAUX IV, INTERNATIONAL CENTER
- LASCAUX II
- 3 PARC DU THOT
- 4 PREHISTORIC SHELTER AT LAUGERIE BASSE
- 5 GRAND ROC CAVES
- 6 CLOISTERS OF CADOUIN ABBEY
- 7 CHÂTEAU DE BIRON
- 8 CHÂTEAU DE BOURDEILLES

### CAMPSITES AND OUTDOORS ACTIVITIES

- 9 Lac de Rouffiac campsite and activity center 10 Saint Estèphe campsite and apartments
- **RESTAURANTS:**
- A Le Bistrot at La Jemaye
- B Le Moulin de Grand l'étang
- C The restaurant at the Lac de Rouffiac
- D The Café Lascaux at Lascaux-Montignac

### SEMITOUR IN FIGURES



ONE **DESTINATION IN** THE VERY HEART OF FRANCE



PARIS / TOULOUSE: A20 MOTORWAY LYON / BORDEAUX A89 MOTORWAY

4hrs	4hrs	3hrs	1hr15
PARIS	LYON	TOULOUSE	BORDEAUX

BY AIR



BERGERAC DORDOGNE-PERIGORD AIRPORT BRIVE-VALLÉE DE LA DORDOGNE AIRPORT Daily flights Orly-Brive - www.hop.com

HOP/

### **BY TRAIN**



PÉRIGUEUX STATION BRIVE-LA-GAILLARDE STATION PÉRIGUEUX > PARIS 4HRS BY TGV VIA BORDEAUX

## **SUMMARY**

- Coming in 2024 p6
- p7 The cultural sites of SEMITOUR PÉRIGORD

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# NEW FOR 2024

"Thanks to the 2023 season, we can continue our work and invest in new features that will enable us to constantly improve the visitor experience, as well as making a valuable contribution to the local economy!

The new season looks very promising. We've been working on new offers, developing ever more innovative experiences and making major improvements which I'm sure, once again, will prove a draw for our visitors, whether it's before, during or after their time with us, and make them want to come back to the Périgord! We will continue to promote, value, and share our heritage and assets, and offer a warm welcome to anyone and everyone who chooses to spend time with us. "

André Barbé – CEO of Semitour Périgord

AMBITIOUS PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED IN THE 1st QUARTER OF 2024

Semitour Périgord's teams are working hard every day on a range of ambitious projects to be rolled out in 2024:

- A new ticketing system will launch in early February with the aim of exceeding 70% of ticket sales online
- All of our websites will be given a full makeover (from early February to the end of June), with 13 new websites more in tune with with the needs of today's web users
- New certification: a new NF Environnement eco rating, the Eco-Tourisme Vallée Vézère label, Accueil Vélo rating, Qualité Tourisme label...





## LASCAUX IV

At the International Center for Cave Art, visitors can now explore the replica of the cave in its entirety with an unprecedented level of detail! The cave paintings and engravings, which date back more than 20,000 years, are brought to life to delight visitors of all ages. Thanks to the innovative use of resources and technology, visitors are given a unique immersive experience, as well as the opportunity to meet our teams, marvel at the extraordinary architecture, and discover the links between cave art and contemporary art... Timeless Lascaux is just waiting to be explored in a thousand different ways through the range of tours available.





### **NEW FOR 2024**

A 3rd film "One Humanity" in our Immersion cinema

Arrival of the Olympic Flame on 22 May 2024

New tours & book-signings during the vacation: "1 day, 1 writer" - Themed guided tours led by our tour guides who are also authors, followed by a Q&A and book-signing

- Guided tour "Discovering Lascaux" with Nicolas Bouvier

- Guided tour "In the imagination of Lascaux's artists" with Denis Tauxe

- Guided tour "Myths and theories surrounding the Lascaux caves" with Gwenn Rigal

- Forthcoming event with the architects Snøhetta, following their winning the Houen Foundation Award: October 2024

### **UPDATE ON 2023** PROJECTS... IN 2024

In 2024 Lascaux IV will continue to enchant young and old alike with the continuation of themed and immersive tours, but also with the creation of new, totally original tours.

- Prestige Tour: A torch-lit tour to explore Lascaux like never before... A timeless and unforgettable experience!

- Prestige Evening: After the Prestige private tour, visitors are treated to a gastronomic dining experience created by a Michelin-starred chef, inside one of the Lascaux IV spaces for an even more immersive experience.

- Storytelling tour: Children are invited to take a truly special tour with an "explorer" tour guide who will take them on a journey through the caves followed by a workshop to complete the experience with games that illustrate Cro-Magnon life





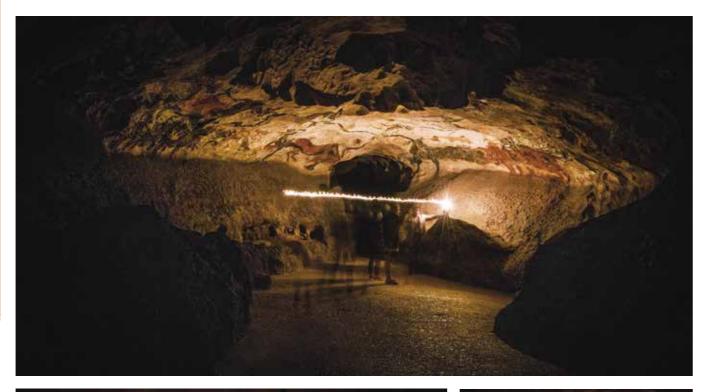




## LASCAUX II

Just a stone's throw from the original cave, visitors can explore the 1st model which in 2023 celebrated its 40th birthday!

Since it opened in 1983, this remarkable site represents a true feat of technical and artistic achievement, welcoming over 10 million visitors from around the world, all of whom have been touched by this unforgettable experience. Sitting in a peaceful, sheltered setting in the heart of the forest, the site takes you inside the history of the world's best-know site for cave art.





## LASCAUX III





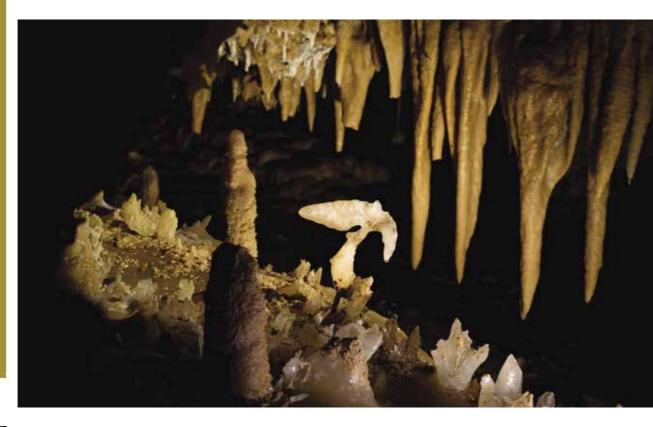
Lascaux III will be on show at the Monaco Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology in the Principality of Monaco from 19 April until September.



### THE CAVES OF **GRAND ROC**



### PREHISTORIC SHELTERS **OF LAUGERIE-BASSE**





The Grotte du Grand Roc Caves

Halfway up an imposing cliff face, the view is simply breathtaking, and the mineral formations inside even more so! It is the astounding variety and density of crystallisations and growths inside the cave that so enchants visitors: eccentric growths, calcite flows, stalactites, stalagmites... All hidden in the heart of a cliff listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Prehistoric Shelters at Laugerie-Basse** 

A walking tour through a genuine shelter occupied by man since the Magdalenian period awaits our visitors. This major archaeological site is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as being a landmark for prehistorians the world over. Set into this cliff in the Vézère Valley, the shelters are just a few meters from the Grand Roc Caves. Digital tour guide, with guided tour available on request.

These 2 sites be closed until the end of March, reopening just in time for the Easter weekend, to allow us to put the finishing touches to the major improvements already underway, including a new illuminated diorama for the Grotte du Grand Roc. improved access (staircase), a new tour route for the Laugerie-Basse shelters, and interpretation tablets for an unprecedented tour of the Abri des Marseilles site.



### **NEW FOR 2024**

And this year we're celebrating the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Grand Roc, a key moment in the development of tourism in the Vézère Valley... We'll be able to share the full programme with you very soon so watch this space!



## CHÂTEAU **DE BIRON**

This tour takes visitors inside the history of the site and its outstanding architecture that makes Biron the grandest château in south-west France. It is the meeting point for the landscapes of the Périgord, Quercy and Agenais, but also for the land, the architecture, the light, and its rich history and arts... Nearly 1,000 years of history have helped to sculpt this imposing stone edifice, which combines elements of medieval, renaissance and classical chateaux!







### **NEW FOR 2024**

 A new modern art exhibition from 6 July to 3 November 2024: "Martial Raysse - paintings, statues, poems, 1974-1992" & the Exhibition "Youth in the Middle Ages" from 28 March to 16 June 2024

• As part of its Châteaux en Fête programme, Biron is showing off its cellars including the magnificent colonnaded hall and its palm vaults

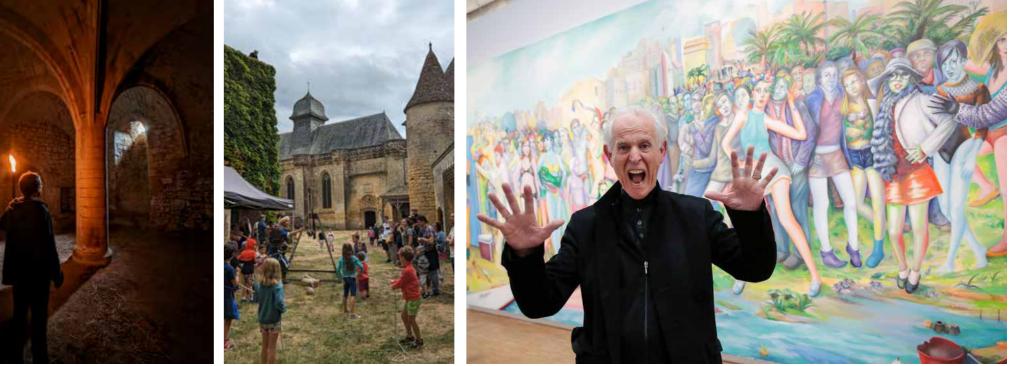
• A brand-new armoury! Semitour Périgord has acquired a superb collection of medieval replica weapons of the highest quality... an opportunity to get right to the heart of war in the middle ages

- An impressive restoration project has been undertaken on the remarkable tombs of Pons & d'Armand to return them to their former glory
- The château is also preparing to host a rich collection of pieces from the French Mobilier National furniture collection! A project by the Heritage Department of the Conseil Départemental and Antonin Macé de Lépinay, Chief curator. The work involved an in-depth study of the Château's inventory to replicate as closely as possible Biron's historic magnificence
- Val Natura on 29 May & new summer events: Abseiling

### **UPDATE ON 2023** PROJECTS... IN 2024

The 2nd act at the Château de Biron as part of the partnership with New York's Metropolitan Museum. Following the Pieta, the Entombment will be returned to the Chapel in September, in the presence of curators from the Met.

The Villégiatures programme makes its return to Château de Biron from 17 to 19 July and from 21 to 23 August (the full programme will be unveiled in February). The Chateau also hosts the Festival de Pays de Bergerac for selected evening events, not forgetting the evening of 13 July with fireworks and demonstrations of firearms and catapults this summer with the Orientissime Jean Dubois reconstruction society!





## CHÂTEAU DE BOURDEILLES

In the heart of a picturesque village, perched on a rocky spur, two châteaux from different eras and with distinct architectural styles stand side by side: one a medieval fortress from the late 13th century, the other a Renaissance manor from the late 16th century. The medieval side offers visitors a breathtaking view over the village and the valley from the top of the keep! While the Renaissance side, offers a chance to explore the impressively rich collection of furnishings.





### **UPDATE ON 2023** PROJECTS... IN 2024

The Château de Bourdeilles continues its events programme with highlights including:

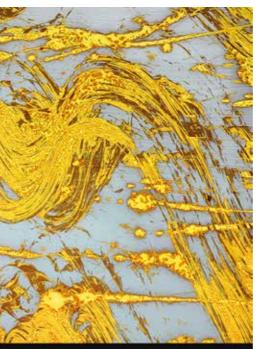
- Châteaux en fête from 13 to 28 April
- Presentations on the culture of Occitane France on Saturday 25 May
- The 3rd edition of the Médiévales programme on the last weekend in July (27-28)
- The 2nd edition of Théâtrales programme on Saturday 17 August

Participation in the national poetry event "Le Printemps des poètes" from 9 to 24 March, in partnership with the Agence Culturelle de Dordogne, promoting poetry readings and allowing students to meet poets. It is a great opportunity to raise public awareness of the texts and history of the troubadours.





### **NEW FOR 2024**











## PARC **DU THOT**

This site is the opportunity to learn more about Cro-Magnon Man and the epoch of the great mammals of the last Ice Age. After meeting the extinct species face-to-face with the Mirror of Time, an augmented-reality experience, visitors take a stroll through the animal park to meet the species, or their descendants, represented on the walls of the Lascaux Caves.









### **NEW FOR 2024**

Thanks to an innovative use of technology, visitors are offered a unique sensory experience in the animal world thanks to the parks new audio installations.

### **UPDATE ON 2023** PROJECTS... IN 2024

The Parc du Thot continues its themed tours "From prehistory to the present" to explain the link between man and animals throughout history.

The VIP "Zookeeper for a day" activity is also available, offering an unforgettable opportunity to meet the animals close-up.







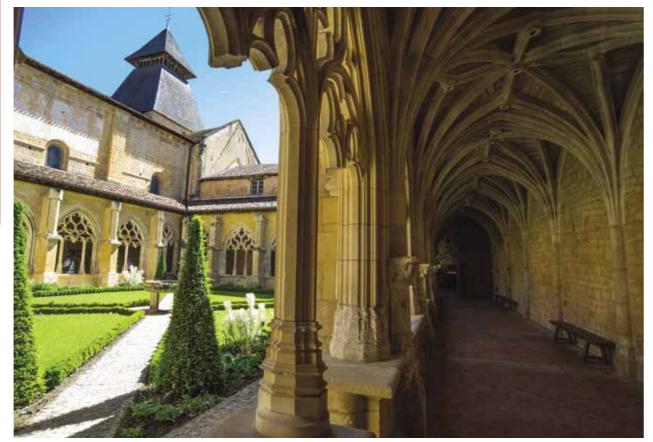


## CLOISTERS OF CADOUIN ABBEY

Any visitor to Cadouin will be astounded by this masterpiece of flamboyant Gothic art, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of France's Santiago de Compostela pilgrims' route. They can wonder at its architectural treasures and enjoy the unique, peaceful and spiritual atmosphere inherited from the former monastic life.

This year once again the Cloisters offer their highlysuccessful tours and events:

- The Marmouset tour, available in summer and specially created for inquisitive children to discover more about monastic life and the characters behind the Cloisters' enigmatic statues
- The Saturday Collations tour, so named as they take place in the afternoon to coincide with the well-known collation mealtime. There are mini-events around various themes during the guided tours of the Cloisters
- The moulding workshop lets visitors make their own mould and take a piece of the sculpture home with them
- Nighttime tours in summer are a chance to explore the unique peace of the Cloisters and its exceptional sculptures.







### INDIVIDUAL PRICES 2024

	ADULTS >13 YEARS	ADULTS Reduction*	DISABLED >13 YEARS	CHILDREN 5- 12 YEARS	<5 YEARS	VIP CARD	WORKSHOPS	OTHER EVENTS
LASCAUX IV	€22	€21	€15 (€10 for under-13s)	€14.50 (€13.50 with large family card)	FREE	€55		
PARC DU THOT		€10.50	€10.50	€7.20	FREE	€26	Sold €2.50	Zookeeper: €80 for over-13s €52 for 7-12 years Family pass (2 adults + 2 children) €210
COMBINED TICKET: LASCAUX IV + THOT	€26.20		€17.20	FREE	€65			
LASCAUX IV + LAUGERIE BASSE	€24.80			€16.50	FREE			
PREHISTORY PASS (Lascaux IV + Thot + Laugerie Basse)	€32.90			€21.50	FREE			
PREHISTORY & GEOLOGY PASS (Prehistory Pass + Grand Roc)	€38.50			€25.20	FREE			
LASCAUX II	€16	€15	€15	€10.50	FREE	€37		
LASCAUX II + THOT	€21			€13.20	FREE	€50		
LASCAUX II + LASCAUX IV	€28.60			€18.70	FREE	€68		
LASCAUX II + IV + THOT	€33			€21	FREE	€80		
GRAND ROC CAVES	€9.50	€8.50	€8.50	€6.30	FREE	€23		
LAUGERIE BASSE SHELTERS	€9.50	€8.50	€8.50	€6.30	FREE	€23	Sold €2.50	
COMBINED TICKET: GRAND ROC + LAUGERIE BASSE	€14.20			€9	FREE			
CHÂTEAU DE BIRON	€9.50	€8.50	€8.50	€6.30	FREE	€23	Sold €2.50	Coin strike €2
CLOISTERS OF CADOUIN ABBEY	€7.70	€6.70	€6.70	€4.90	FREE	€18	Sold €2.50	
COMBINED TICKET: BIRON + CADOUIN	€13.40			€8.40	FREE	€32		
CHÂTEAU DE BOURDEILLES	€9.50	€8.50	€8.50	€6.30	FREE	€23	Sold €2.50	Coin strike €2

\*Students, unemployed, large family card, Crédit Agricole employees

### USEFUL INFORMATION





Buy tickets online at ticketsdordogne.com

### CONTACT INFORMATION GENERAL PUBLIC

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### PRESS

Check out our dedicated pages and photo libraries on the website for each of our sites:

- https://lascaux.fr/fr/espace-presse/
- https://lascaux2.fr/fr/espace-presse/
- https://grotte-grand-roc.fr/fr/espace-presse/
- https://abris-laugerie-basse.fr/fr/espace-presse/
- https://chateau-biron.fr/fr/espace-presse/
- https://lcloitre-cadouin.fr/fr/espace-presse/
- https://chateau-bourdeilles.fr/fr/espace-presse/

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