

# In the footsteps of the Men of Lascaux



**90 km** in Valley of Vézère



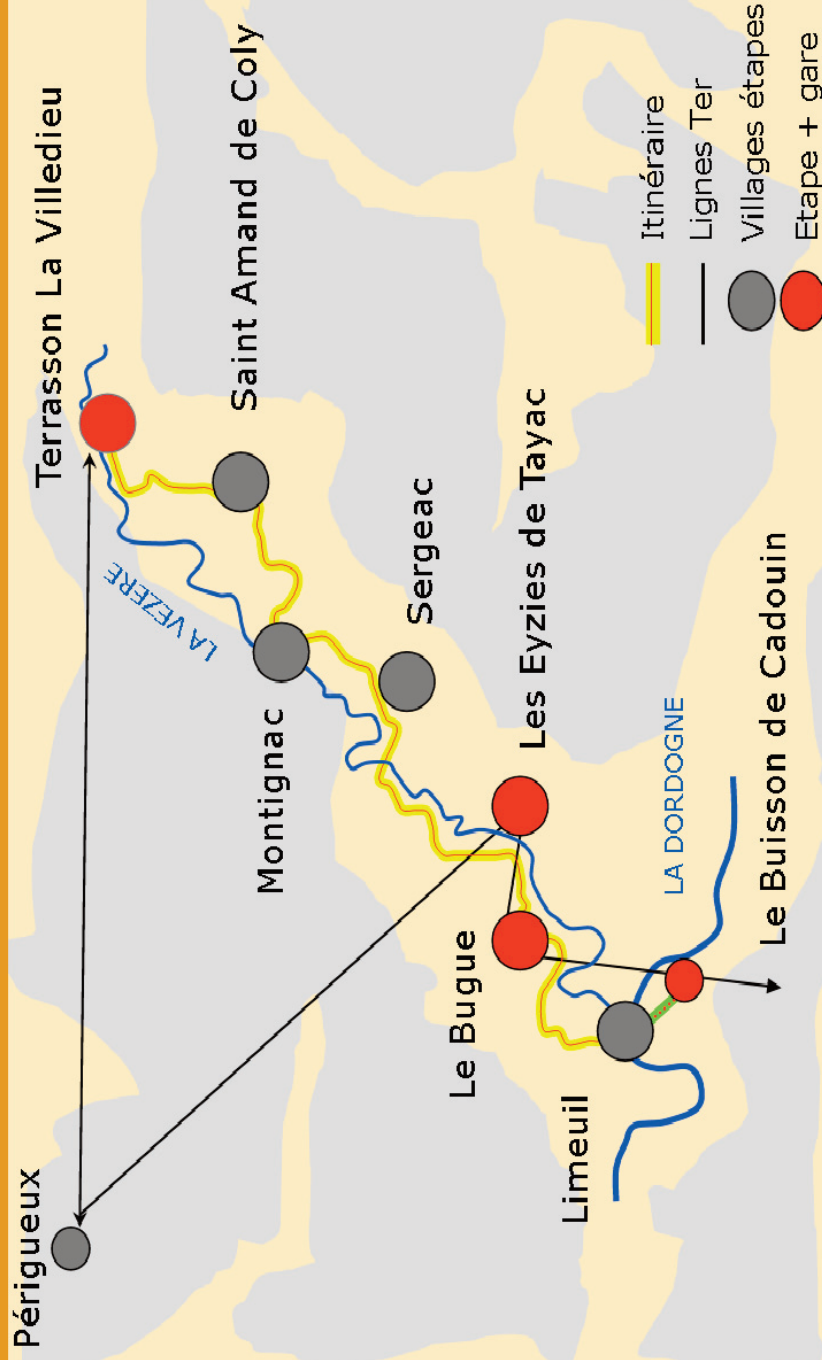
**Dordogne**  
**PÉRIGORD**  
LE DÉPARTEMENT [dordogne.fr](http://dordogne.fr)

DORDOGNE PLEINE NATURE PÉRIGORD

PÔLE  
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## Dans les pas des hommes de Lascaux





# Introduction

From Terrasson-Lavilledieu to Limeuil where the Vézère meets the Dordogne, the river runs through one of the most beautiful regions of Périgord. A region where Man has been thriving since prehistoric times and which gave birth to one of the jewels of human endeavor: Lascaux.

The route that we propose you illustrates this incredible human adventure which lasts until now the present day. This journey is a concentrate of all the wonders of the Périgord which has a heritage of exceptional diversity.

Kilometer after tranquil kilometer, you will be amazed by the stunning landscape, a Romanesque church, the magnificent abbey of St Amand de Coly, ancient fortresses carved directly into the cliffs, the caves of Les Eyzies: their museums and International Center of Prehistory... Not to mention Lascaux, the Sistine Chapel of prehistory.

As is often said in the Périgord, stories are hidden behind every stone and path, starting with one of the most beautiful of them, the one of art and its origins at Lascaux.

Every visit and every encounter evokes the same wonderment, the same emotion viewing the unequalled masterpiece of Lascaux, even Picasso himself recognized these artists as his masters.!

These feelings will increase with the completion, next to the original hill, of an even more modern facsimile of the original Lascaux cave: The Centre International d'Art Pariétal Montignac-Lascaux, to be called "Lascaux 4".

This is a trail of true discovery and real adventure in the footsteps of Lascaux's people, even more, it's an invitation to enter into the history of humankind.

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Wanderlust** : 90 kilometres of hiking in the Vézère Valley, between Terrasson-Lavilledieu, the first Périgord town crossed by the Vézère river and Limeuil, one of the most beautiful villages in France, overlooking the confluence with the Dordogne. Throughout your journey, the route descends the Vézère Valley, "the cradle of prehistory", passing through picturesque villages at the foot of the cliffs overlooking the river, and traversing thick forests. In succession, you will overlook the valley and gorges which can't help but increase your understanding of how and why this territory has been inhabited for almost 400,000 years.

There is the possibility to adjust your route with canoeing from several starting points: please check with rental companies

**Trip back** : to return to your starting point, taxis are available at Les Eyzies and Le Bugue.

There is no direct train line between Limeuil and Terrasson. The nearest railway station from Limeuil is the one of Buisson de Cadouin [railway junction on the lines Bordeaux-Sarlat and Agen-Périgueux], but a return to Terrasson requires a change over in Périgueux.

**Our tip** : to benefit by train transportation, we recommend starting from the stations of Bordeaux, Libourne or Périgueux [free parking near these stations] to reach Terrasson [Bordeaux-Brive line]. That will allow you, once in Limeuil, to reach the train station of Buisson de Cadouin on foot [6km returning to Périgueux by train [Agen-Périgueux line] or Libourne or Bordeaux [Bordeaux-Sarlat line].

**Marking** : orange sticker "Dans les pas des Hommes de Lascaux"

**Accommodation** : various accommodation is available along the way [campsites, hotels, guest houses, cottages]. <http://rando.cg24.fr>  
<http://www.lascaux-dordogne.com>

**Canoe** : canoe hire is available along the route. Today you can choose to go canoeing or stick with dry land. [Details on page 3.](#)

**GPS** : the GPS track can be downloaded from the website <http://rando.cg24.fr> and with a smartphone the route is available on the free app "ItiAqui".



This document is prepared by the Tourism Service / The departmental council of the Dordogne, with the Department Committee for Tourisme, the Departmental Service for Archaeology and the International Center of Prehistory.

The reconstructions of the Ice Age sites were designed by Jean-Pierre Chadelle and drawn by Jean-Georges Marcillaud.

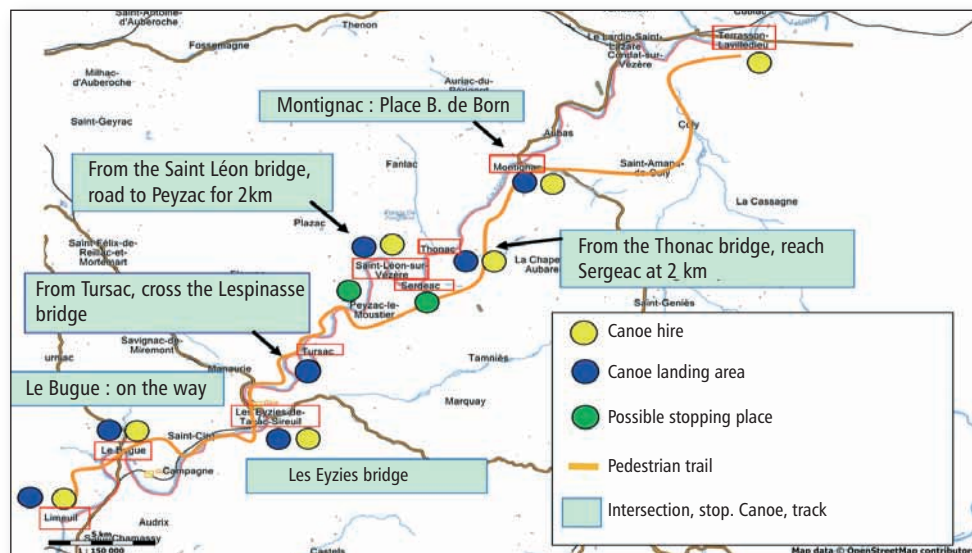
© Conseil départemental de la Dordogne, Jean-Georges Marcillaud [1998]

The old photographs illustrating this paper are from the fund "Laffargue-Guimard" and the collection of postcards from the Departmental Archives of Dordogne.



Practical information on providers and possible routes [www.dordognecanoe.com](http://www.dordognecanoe.com)

[www.dordognecanoie.com](http://www.dordognecanoie.com)



# THE VEZÈRE VALLEY

The Vézère river enters the Périgord at Terrasson and swells the waters of the Dordogne some 50 km away to the south west at the village of Limeuil. The Vézère crosses landscapes that remain wild to this day, snaking and meandering between steep cliffs, along the 'pechs', the rocky plateaus, and the wooded hills.

The Vézère Valley has long been considered a high place of prehistory, thanks to the quality and the density of archaeological research that has taken place here for almost two centuries.

The exceptional concentration of archaeological sites, the excellent preservation of the ancient remains and the almost 400,000 years of human presence have confirmed upon the Vézère Valley the appellation of "Valley of Mankind".



## AN EXCEPTIONAL NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

This valley is at the heart of an exceptional natural environment: located between the margins of the Massif Central and the Atlantic shore, it benefits of different climatic influences that probably encouraged the establishment of the groups of prehistoric hunter-gatherers.



Two key aspects characterise this landscape: the limestone soils and the rich water system organized around the Vézère, the Dordogne and Isle river further to the north west.

Many caves and rock-shelters were easily suitable for habitation. The first ones mostly resulted from rainwater gradually widening the natural cracks and fissures. The creation of shelters was slightly different: frost action, stronger in some rock strata, caused overhanging rock to fall. During 400,000 years of human occupation, the climate varied with relatively temperate phases and very cold periods.

20 000 years ago, for example, the climate in the Vézère Valley was particularly harsh. Average annual temperatures were 55-66F (13-19° C) lower compared to current temperatures. Rainfalls were also much less abundant than today but as the subsoil was permanently frozen (permafrost), water tended to stagnate on the surface and formed swampy areas during the summer.

On a human scale, the climate and the topography of the site allowed a wide variety of habitats: plant and animal resources were rich and diversified, even into the coldest period of the Ice Age. In addition, flint resources, required to manufacture tools, were plentiful and easily accessible. This largely explains the permanence of human occupation in the Vézère Valley.

# CRO-MAGNON MAN AND NEANDERTHAL....!

*If Cro-Magnon Man left plentiful evidence of its passage in the Valley, he was not its first resident. He was preceded by another representative of the genus Homo, Neanderthal Man, whose oldest traces of occupation date back around 400,000 years.*

Neanderthal Man is not the "dumb brute" so often depicted in popular imagery. He was the source of a rich material culture called Mousterian [Vault of Moustier] and was able to produce standardized and highly effective tools. He also seemed to be the first to have been concerned by symbolic and spiritual spheres: he buried his dead. The extensive use of pigments such as ochre, and the collecting of feathers, shells, fossils and rare minerals bear witness to the fact that Neanderthal Man also had an aesthetic sensibility.

Within thirty kilometers of the Vézère there are four fields [la Ferrassie, le Regourdou, le Moustier, le Roc-de-Marsal] where eleven Neanderthal graveyards have been unearthed, a third of the graves known to date worldwide. Based on these remains, we can draw a composite sketch: Neanderthal is stocky, massive, very muscular and about 5.25 feet tall. His skull is quite large, lengthened backwards, his eye sockets are topped with a bone bead. Neanderthal passed away 30,000 years ago but before that he probably had encountered our direct ancestor in the Vézère Valley; the Cro-Magnon who arrived in Europe 40,000 years ago from Africa, through the Near East. Some contacts between the two species probably occurred here in the Vézère Valley, but scientists are divided about the nature of these exchanges. Likewise, it is not currently possible to explain the causes of the disappearance of the Neanderthals.

The history of the Cro-Magnon is intimately linked to that of the Vézère Valley, as he owes his name to a shelter called Cro-Magnon, at Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, where the skeletons of five individuals were discovered in 1868. Cro-Magnon then became synonymous with the first modern European man.

Apart from a greater stature and a more robust skeleton, Cro-Magnon is anatomically similar to us. Today, the term of Cro-Magnon has become obsolete and specialists prefer to speak of "Modern Man" or *Homo sapiens sapiens*, the scientific name for all current men and their last direct ancestors, amongst whom were the Cro-Magnon.

With the Cro-Magnon, tools were diversifying and the use of organic materials such as antler, ivory, bone, was developing. These important technological and cultural transformations were accompanied by the appearance of multiple artistic expressions: the art of painting (on cave walls), carving, modeling or sculpting on different types of supports.

The Vézère Valley has 25 decorated caves and excavations have delivered magnificent pieces of portable art. [the term "portable art" means the production of objects of limited size, so movable or portable].



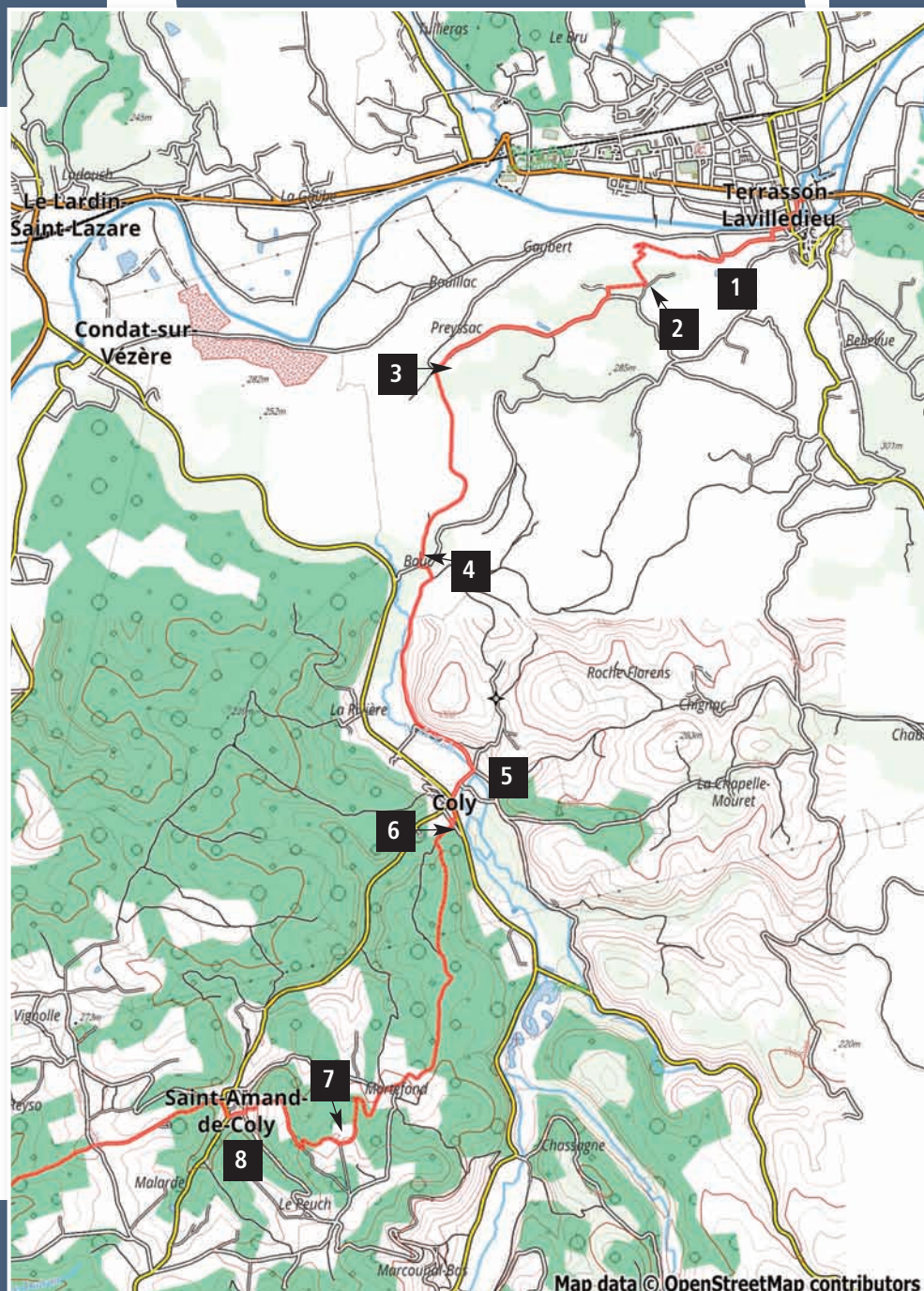
Neanderthal Man  
-400 000 ➡ -30 000

Cro-Magnon - Modern Man  
- 40 000 ➡ today

## THE ROUTE



## TERRASSON - SAINT AMAND DE COLY - 12 km





## TERRASSON - SAINT AMAND DE COLY

To start from Terrasson, it is better to leave your car at the railway station or Place Voltaire. [See page 23.](#)

Opposite the railway station, go up the avenue Jean Jaurès until the crossroads, continue straight through and walk to the new bridge.

Cross the pedestrian bridge, then straight ahead Rue Margontier and turn right on to Rue Basse. From there go straight onto the Rue Marcel Michel and at the far end, turn left and follow the yellow signs.

**1** Go under the Chapel Saint Sour in the rock. [See page 23.](#) Fork left on the hairpin path along the hill.

**CAUTION :** under wet conditions, the first kilometers are very slippery.

**2** When you get to the road at top of the hill, take the path along the house on the right (green signs), then turn left on the limestone path until you reach the road. Take the road on the right.

**At la Talerie** follow the boucle de Bouch (at 1.5 km picnic table and shelter).

You will momentarily draw away from the Vézère Valley to follow the course of the river Coly, a tributary of the Vézère, which will take you to the village of Saint Amand de Coly, ranked among the most beautiful in France. [See page 24.](#)

**3** At the intersection of the limestone paths, take the small road to the left that goes into the woods (dir. Coly, boucle de **Bouch**) and up to the road to "Bouch."

**4** Turn left and take the right path (yellow signs) and follow the Coly on the right.

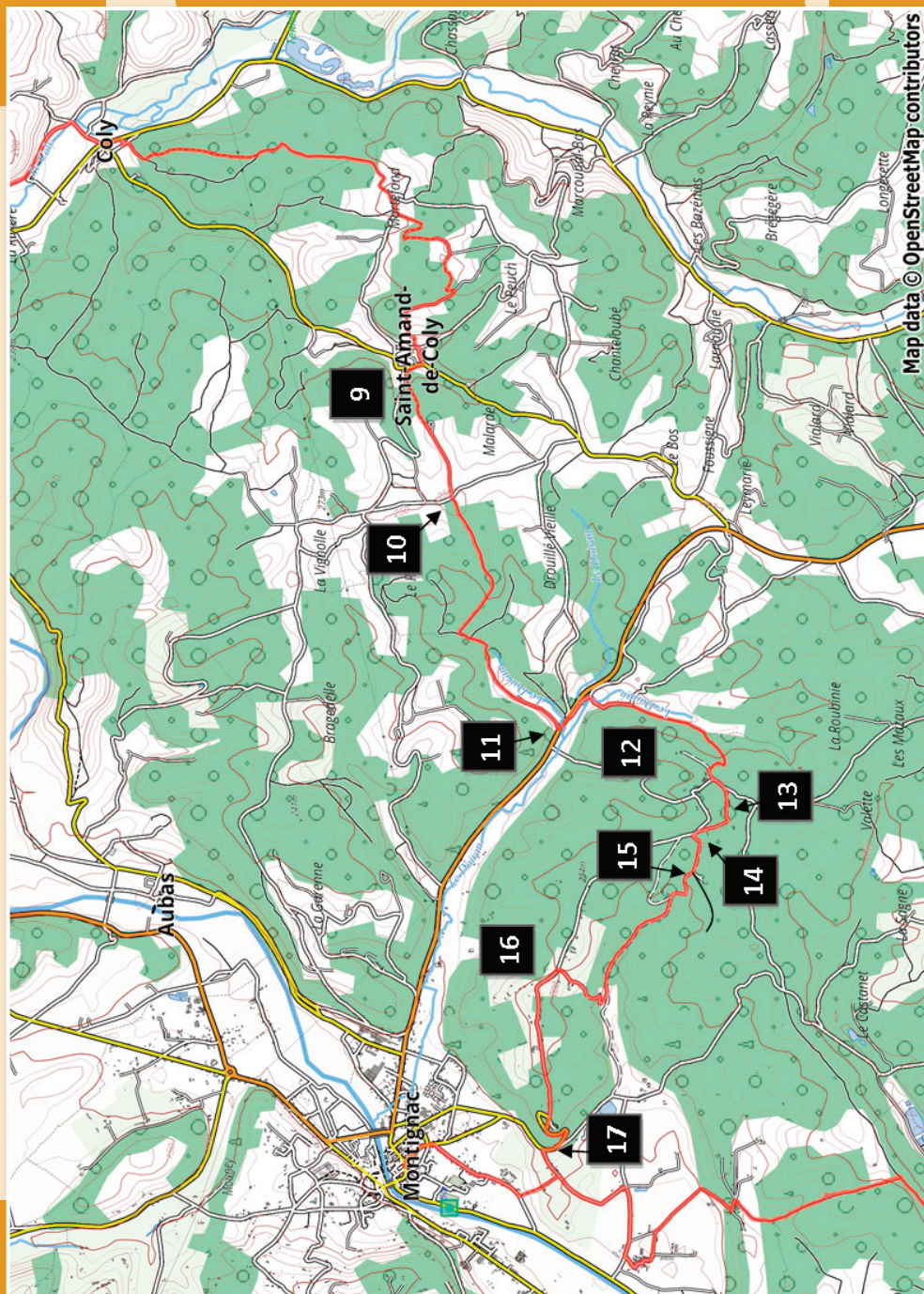
**5** At the crossroads, turn right, cross the bridge and go straight ahead up to Coly. Cross the RD62 and follow it starting to the left on the pavement up to the intersection (about 30m.). Turn right, dir. Saint Amand de Coly (picnic table) then left (dir. **Biat**) and immediately right (yellow signs).

**6** Take the left path that goes through the woods and then to the right among the boxwood bushes. Continue straight ahead up to the asphalt. At the "Mortefond" road, turn right, then left (boucle des murailles).

**7** At "Asplat" continue straight ahead onto the asphalt (dir. Saint Amand de Coly) then turn right and continue straight until the asphalt. Once on the asphalt, turn right and follow the yellow signs up to the village of Saint Amand de Coly.

**8** Arrive at Saint Amand, registered among the most beautiful villages of France. [See page 24.](#)

## SAINT AMAND - MONTIGNAC - 16 km



# PLAN MONTIGNAC



**9** Depart from the parking lot "du 14 juillet" **at the base of the village.**

Take the right path at the bottom of the car park that climbs between the boxwood (back to the village). At the top of it, continue straight to the paved road.

**10** Take the opposite path that goes down into the woods.

**11** Cross the D704 (**CAUTION** dangerous crossing) and follow it left for a few meters before turning on the small road to your right.

Continue along the small road up to the private property of the Chateau of **La Filolie** and take the marked path along it. [See page 24.](#)

**12** At the end of it, turn right on the path that goes into the woods (green signs), continue straight to the paved road. Facing the farm, turn left and continue following the green signs at the intersection to the left before turning right.

**13** Cross the farm, then continue on the path.

**14** On the asphalt, turn right, then follow the signs by taking the left path.

**15** Stay on this path passing by the first path on the left that leads to the barns and also the path to the right in the turn, and continue through the bottom of the valley. 700 m further, take the marked trail that climbs in the woods. Continue up to the intersection of **the road of Lascaux.**

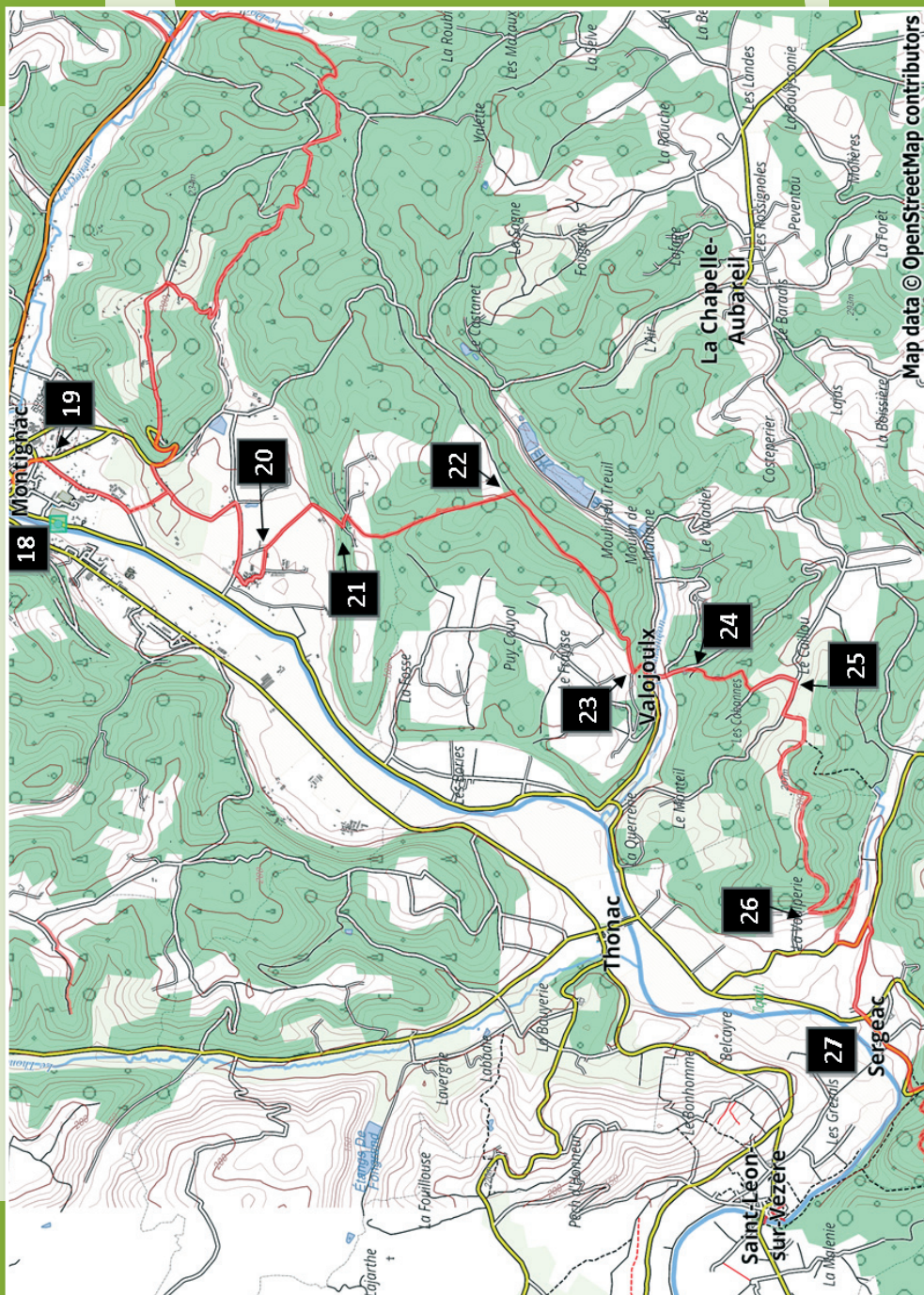
**16** Take her(it) on the left, the direction (management) Regourdou.

Pass in front of **Regourdou, Lascaux** ([See page 25](#)) and get off on the paved road up to the intersection in direction of Montignac.

**17** Take the small road marked on the left up to the path and take it to the right. Down the path, onto the asphalt, turn right and go straight ahead up to **Montignac.** [See page 28.](#)



# MONTIGNAC - SERGEAC - 17 km



**18** Depart from the information board in the Place **Bertran de Born** (near the Tourist Office). Leave the place by taking the Rue du 4 septembre and take the first street on the right (**Rue du Barry**). Go down this street until the intersection and continue straight ahead.

**19** Take the first right "**Gouny**". Continue on this road until the first path after the vacation village (yellow signs). At the end, turn right.

Continue until you reach the asphalt, then turn right. Take the direction of **Brenac**, cross the village and at the exit, turn right.

**20** Go until the end of the paved road and once at the top, at the intersection,

**21** turn right on the marked path "**Boucle du Posadou**". At the crossroads, leave the boucle du Posadou.

**22** Follow the path on the right. On arriving, at a small road, go straight ahead, then fork onto the left path

**23** to reach **Valojoulx**. See page 28

On arriving at the church, cross the square beside the town hall and the "salle des fêtes" (water and facilities open behind the village hall). Continue straight ahead and take the paved road on the right (green signs ).

**24** (Green marking). During the climb, take the path that turns off left.

On leaving the woods, turn left onto the asphalt. At the crossroads take the road on the right.

**25** In the descent, turn left in direction of "Les Brandes". At the fork, take the left path.

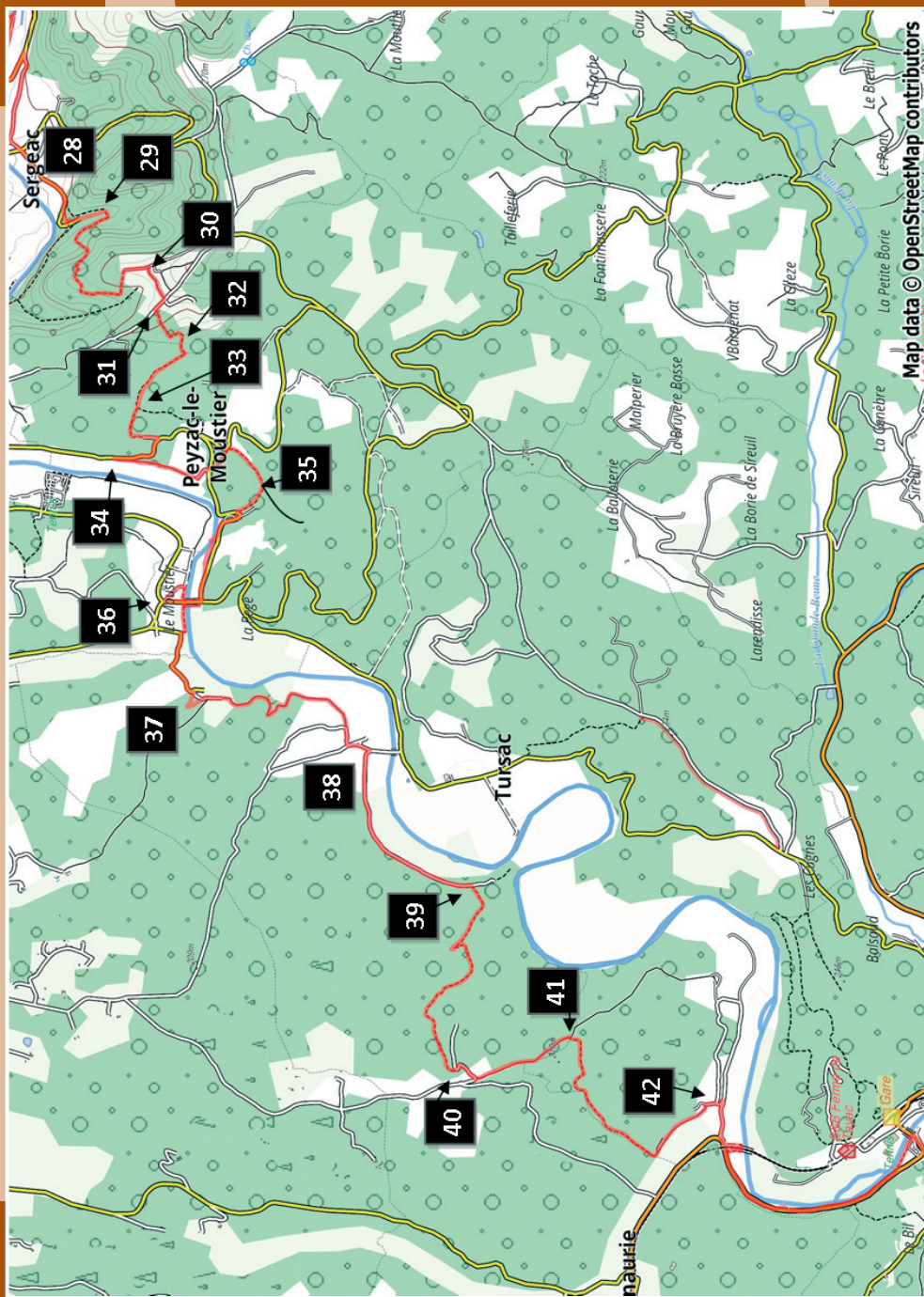
**26** At "Voulperie", keep to the left, then take the left path in direction of Sergeac.

At the junction with the white path, turn right.

Arriving at the small road, turn left and then right at the intersection. Continue straight ahead up to **Sergeac**

**27** Arrival in Sergeac. See page 28.

# SERGEAC - LES EYZIES - 22 km



**28** Departure from the square of the village of **Sergeac**. Take the direction of "**Castel-Merle**" [See page 29], then turn left at the sign indicating the beginning of the hiking trails. Take the small road up and pass the inn.

**29** Turn right on the path that goes into the woods before turning again on another path on the right.

Continue to follow the yellow signs up to "**Chaillac**."

**30** Leave it to follow the green signs on the right in **Chaillac**, continue straight ahead and turn right at the intersection.

**31** Turn onto the first track to the left.

**32** In the woods, at the crossroads, take the path that goes down on the right then a little further, at the second junction.

**33** Take the right path in direction of **Peyzac**.

Onto the paved road, walk past the farm, then take the road on the right before turning down the river bank on the way to the left.

**34** Go along the river up to the small chapel of **Peyzac le Moustier**. Go up till you hit the main road and cross it, take the steps opposite and continue along the path.  
Go straight ahead.

**35** At the crossroads, turn right in direction of "**la Roque Saint Christophe**". See page 30. Walk along the site of the road, passing along the foot of the cliff up to RD.  
Turn right, cross the bridge [view on **Le Moustier** - See page 31]

**36** At the end of it, go down on the right up to the river. Go under the bridge until arriving at the paved road. Turn left and follow the signs to the right "**Sur le Ruth**".

**37** Follow the yellow signs up to "**Lespinasse**".

**38** In the hamlet, descend by the left side and before reaching the bridge, take the small road on the right in direction of "**La Madeleine**". See page 32.

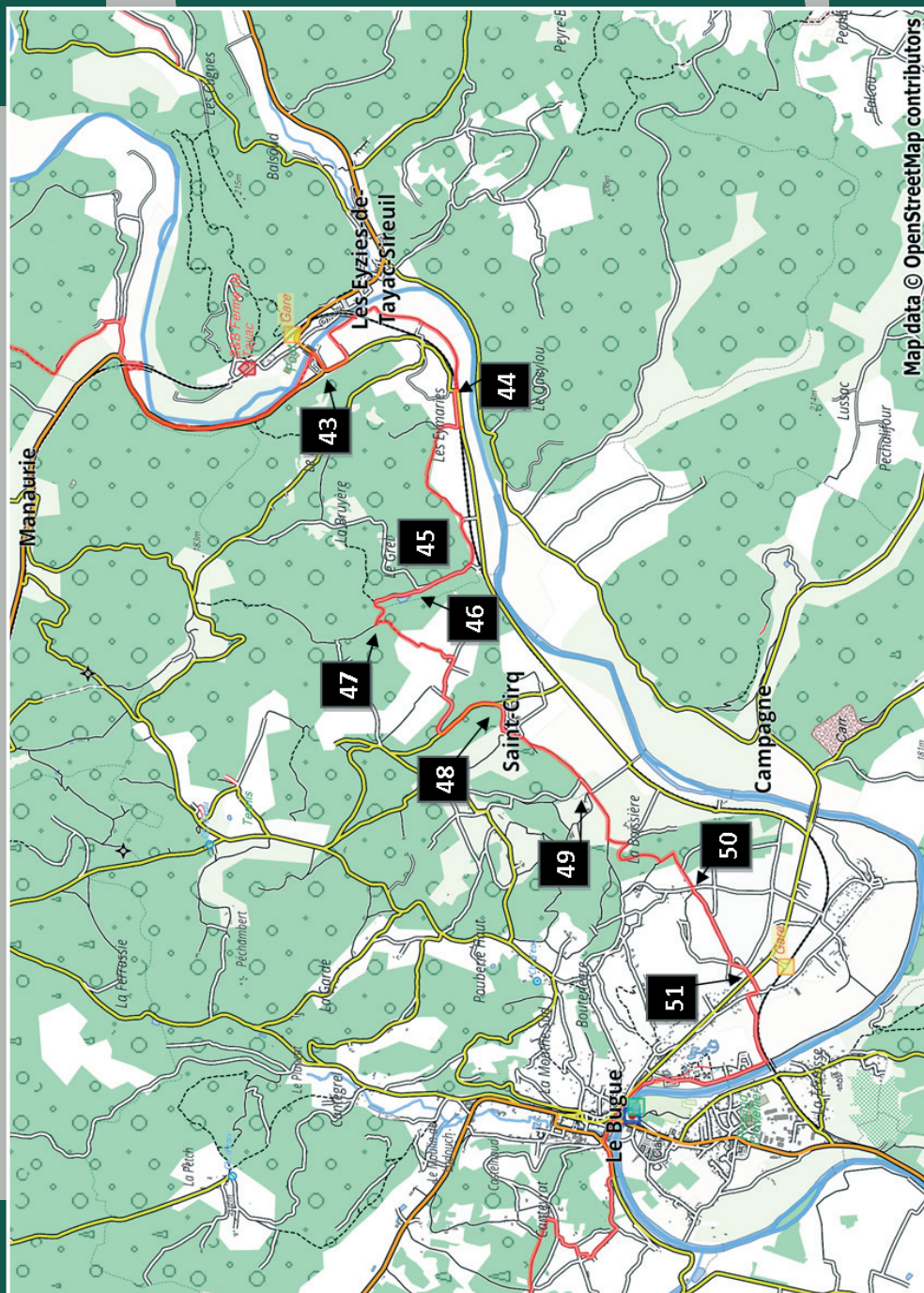
**39** Take the path on the right [green signs] in the direction of "**Boucle de la Micoque**" before accessing the car park of the site. See page 33. On the way, after the hairpin turn, turn right, then straight ahead. Go back by following the green signs.

**40** On the asphalt, continue on the left then along the small road on the right hand side at the intersection. Turn left up the hill on the limestone path after the vineyards. Continue on this path, passing the lookout point for the valley and **La Madeleine** [left side] before joining the "**Boucle de La Micoque**".

**41** Arriving at the boucle, turn right then leave the limestone path by taking the small one on the right that goes into the woods. Pass close to the "**gisement de la Micoque**" [indicated on the left at the intersection] and take the left until the "**Mas**".

**42** In the village of Mas, keep to the right and upon arrival at the mill, take the left path along the river and follow the roadside up to **Les Eyzies**. See page 34/35.

## LES EYZIES - LE BUGUE - 14 km



**43** Crossing the bridge over the Vézère, take the path marked on the left and continue straight ahead towards the road at the bottom of the cliffs [see page 36/37]. Turn left, and left again, then cross the campsite and walk along the Vézère.

**44** At the junction with the railroad tracks, turn right and then immediately left. Facing the small tunnel, turn right to go up to the farm. At the farm take left towards "**The Eymaries**".

**45** Arriving at the hamlet of "Peuch" with its semi-cave dwellings, continue on the path and then take the right before turning onto a path on the left.

**46** Walk along the pond, then continue towards "**Le Bugue**" on the left..

**47** **ATTENTION** then leave the green signs and take the path on the left in direction of **Saint Cirq**. In the hamlet, turn left and then right at the junction [green signs].. Follow the small road up to **Saint Cirq**.

**48** At the entrance of **Saint Cirq** [See page 37] turn right and go past the **Sorcerer's cave**. Leave the GR and follow the green signs. At the bend, take the path on the right and then turn left [green signs].

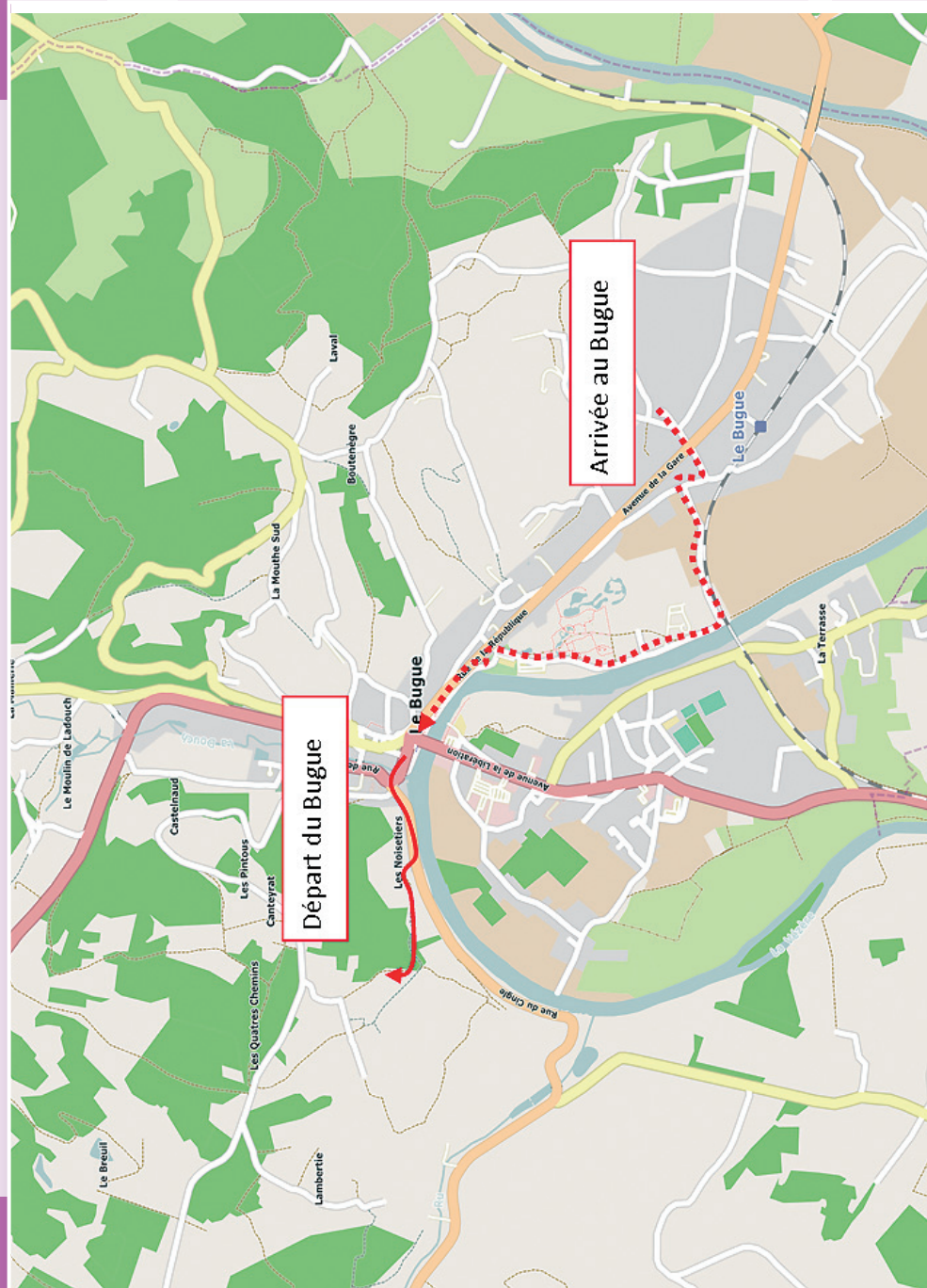
**49** On the asphalt, keep left then go straight ahead until the crossroads [green signs]. Continue on this path, following the markers, turn right on the path that goes up, then after the slope, take a new path to the right following the power line. Stay on this road until the paved road.

**50** Then continue straight ahead, and then, at the intersection, take the left road [green signs]. Follow it until the end, then turn left.

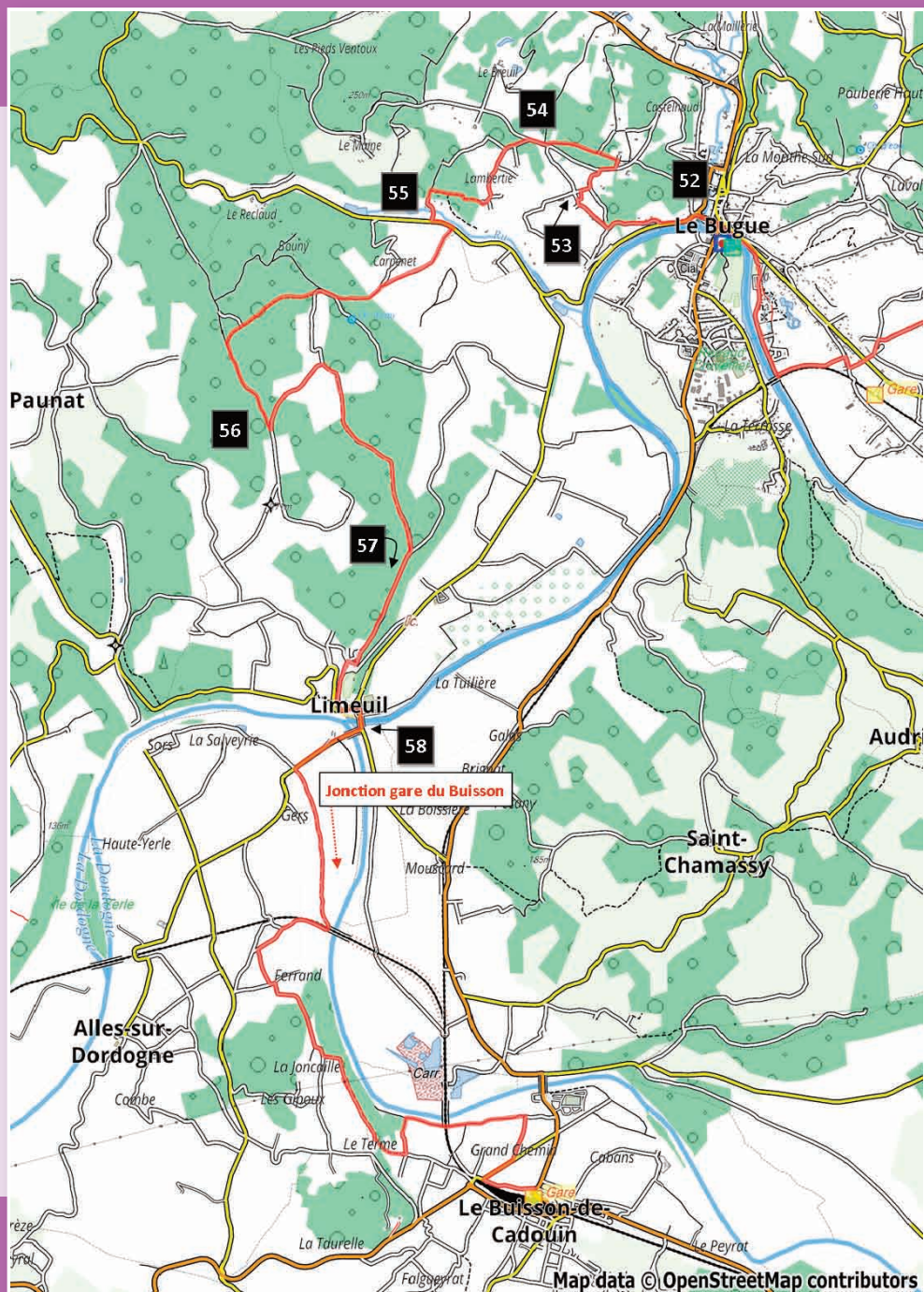
**51** Cross the departmental route 703 to the opposite side [**CAUTION**] then take the first street on the right **Rue Faure Passe**. Follow the green signs on the left **Rue du Port**. Continue on the right along the river, up to the bridge in the center of Le Bugue [See page 38/39] (go up the stairs).



## PLAN LE BUGUE



## LE BUGUE-LIMEUIL 11 km - LIMEUIL-LE BUISSON 6 KM





## LE BUGUE - LIMEUIL - LE BUISSON

### **52** Departure : the Tourist Office.

Take the **road to Limeuil** (in front of l'Hôtel du Cygne) then turn right on the "**chemin des Noisetiers**"  
Take the small road that climbs up the hill. Enjoy the view !

### **53** At the paved road, turn right, then left. At the intersection, continue on the right hand road. At **Canteyrat**, take the left path. Continue straight ahead and turn left at the intersection.

### **54** On the asphalt, turn right, then left in the direction of **Lambertie**. Continue straight ahead.

A Lambertie, cross the farm. At the bottom of the hill, turn left.

### **55** At the intersection with the D703, take the road to the left then find again the path on the right. On top of the hill, at the crossroads, take the small road on the right. Leave the path on the right, staying on the road, then in the turn, branch off on the road to the right that climbs through the woods.

On top of the hill, at the crossroads, take the path on the left and continue straight ahead up to the paved road, then turn left.

### **56** Continue on the small road down to the bottom of the valley and take the path on the right.

### **57** Go straight ahead and at the **paved road**, turn right onto the road along the ridge. Continue straight ahead until **Limeuil**.

Entering Limeuil [See page 39] by the **Porte du Marquisat**, continue downhill along the small village street until reaching the confluence of the two rivers at the bridge.

### **58** Congratulations ! You have traveled 90 km in the footsteps of the Men of **Lascaux**.





### To reach the railway station of Buisson de Cadouin

(Bordeaux-Sarlat and Périgueux-Agen lines ) 6.5 km from Limeuil by the trails, cross the bridge over the Vézère and then the one over the Dordogne.

Branch off at the third path on the left (signposted facing a small road). Continue ahead. Pass under a bridge and go up into the hamlet. At the intersection, leave the road on the right and continue straight on.

Keeping left, continue until the intersection, turn left and then right towards "Le Fournier".

**Quickly leave** the road and turn right onto the marked path. Continue straight ahead on the trail and then the small road. Follow the sign "**Pont De Vig par La Séguinie**" (left). at the intersection.

At the next junction turn left then take the fork to the right after the group of houses.

Enjoy the view on the Dordogne !

At the fork, take the path that goes down on the left. On the asphalt, turn left in the direction of "**Pont de Vig**". Continue along the river. On the paved road, leave the marked path and take the small road on the right along the water treatment plant. At the stop sign turn right, then left Rue de Montaigne.

At the stop sign, turn right to reach the railway station.





# Welcome to the trail "In the Footsteps of the Men of Lascaux".

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE ...

Should you wish to wander before descending the Vézère Valley, take your time, because "Vézère Périgord Noir" region consisting of Terrasson, Thenon and Hautefort, at the entrance of the Vézère Valley, holds many surprises!

A rich natural world is to be found between the limestone uplands of the Périgord and the Vézère Valley, equipped for outdoor activities with well-marked and well-maintained trails. A territory that offers treasures such as "Les Jardins de l'Imaginaire" in Terrasson or the subterranean majesty of "la Grotte de Tourtoirac". But equally, there is an omnipresent heritage of constructions with testimonials from various periods: the old town and bridge of Terrasson, the "Hôtel-Dieu" and the "Chateau de Hautefort" with its French gardens, not to mention the villages with their rural architecture, the mansions of foundry owners around Thenon, and the many remarkably well preserved churches of the region.

**Information TO Vézère Périgord Noir [www.vezere-perigord.fr](http://www.vezere-perigord.fr) / Tél 05 53 50 37 56]**

**Your route " In the Footsteps of the Men of Lascaux " begins in Terrasson La Villedieu.**

From prehistoric times to the Bronze Age, human activity developed in Terrasson Lavilledieu along the Vézère. The founding of a monastery in the late 6th century by Sorus, a local hermit known as Saint Sour, brought growth to the village in the High Middle Ages..

The town sprang up organically around the monastery. The magnificent mosaic exhibited at the Heritage House is evidence that "villae" were established during the Gallo-Roman period. [entrance free].

The old bridge, built in the 12th century by Benedictine monks, is one of the best preserved in France. It allows you to reach the Malpas cliffs where a special route joins the ramparts and the church of Saint Sour overlooking the city and the Vézère.

Strolling through the old town and its shops, you will discover its many fountains. The city also houses several remarkably preserved underground shelters called "cluzeaux", as well as the most unique contemporary gardens in Europe, "les Jardins de l'Imaginaire", which invite you for an exceptional guided walk in the universal art of gardens.

### The legend of Saint Sour

The legend tells that Sorus, looking for a site for his monastery would have released the doves from these rocks and, seeing them landing in the valley, would have exclaimed "Terra Sunt !" [they are downstairs !]: that would have given its name to Terrasson !

From the start the trail climbs along a cliff where the chapel of St. Sour is located. These are the rocks that the hermit Sorus settled in. But this cliff has many more treasures !



*The cliff overlooking western **Terrasson** housed several prehistoric sites. The **Jolivet**" shelter; excavated by Jean and Amédée Bouyssonie in the early twentieth century, has delivered Magdalenian. The **"Lachaud"** shelter; excavated a few decades later by Dr Cheynier; contained Solutrean and Magdalenian levels.*

*The physician and pre-historian André Cheynier was a beloved public figure in the Terrasson region. His works has helped to make known the prehistoric richness of many deposits such as **"Bade-goule"** in **Le Lardin** or **"Le Peyrat"** in **Saint Rabier** where he discovered an ancient human skeleton dating from 13,000 years ago .*

Following the limestone uplands of Terrasson, the trail leads into the woods and along the stream called **the Coly**. This tributary stream of **the Vézère** has the reputation of being very cold.

Only 10 km of its course is above ground and this does not allow its waters to get warm. At its source of **"La Doux"** water comes out at 55 F (13°C).The stream is famous for the length of its siphons, the longest in France that reaches 5900 meters.

Next you pass through the village with the same name as the stream before arriving at **Saint Amand de Coly** which is classified among the most beautiful villages in France.

The village developed around the shrine

of Saint Amand, which harbors within it some very old buildings, such as the "maison romane", a 17th century dovecote, a former presbytery and its associated structures...The abbey seems inordinately large for such a small village, and its military aspect draws attention. The exterior of the church was provided with ingenious and highly efficient defense systems as evidenced by patched holes in the north wall: in 1575, the Protestants took refuge in the church and it took no less than six days of cannon fire to drive them out of it !

You are now going to leave **the Coly** to join the Vézère Valley. For this, you will cross wooded hills and pass the Castle of **the Filolie**. The castle gets its name from an ancient oil mill that was installed on the stream. In 1873, eleven sites were called **"The Filolie"** in the Dordogne.

Built from the 15th to the 17th century, it has been registered as a historical monument since 1947. Its roofs are covered with lauzes (stone tiles) and its machicolated towers make it an outstanding architectural complex.

After a few kilometers through the woods along stony trails, your footsteps lead you to the famous

## **HILL OF LASCAUX**

This hill overlooking the village of Montignac became famous when, by chance, four teenagers discovered a cave in 1940.

## THE DISCOVERY OF LASCAUX

*On September 8, 1940, during a walk with his dog, Marcel Ravidat discovered an opening in the ground. Convinced that it was the tunnel running under the old Castel of Montignac, he decided to return a few days later with the necessary equipment to explore this hole with his friends Georges Agniel, Simon Coencas and Jacques Marsal.*

*On September 12, after widening the opening to the cave, the four boys slid through the hole. Using their oil lantern to look around, they discovered the drawings of horses, bulls, stags, ibexes on the walls and ceiling.*

*Determined to keep their discovery to themselves, the boys swore an oath of secrecy for the time being and took advantage of the cave for several days. But their schoolmaster, Léon Laval, taken into confidence, understood the importance of this discovery. Once the word was out, the news spread like wildfire. On September 21, the priest H.Breuil took his first steps into the cave. He gave it the nickname of the "Sistine Chapel of Prehistoric Art" and decided to stay there to study the paintings. The work he did contributed to the classification of the cave as a historic monument in December 1940.*

But the cave of Lascaux is not the only site on this hill. Before reaching the famous cave you will pass le Regourdou, whose history is closely linked to the one of Lascaux !



From "The Lascaux wood secrets " Felix and Bigotto Edition Dolmen.

## LE REGOURDOU

*In 1957, convinced of the existence of another entry into the Lascaux cave, the owner of the site, Roger Constant started to remove, bucket by bucket, the debris from the collapse in front of his farmhouse, 500 meters away from the famous cave. Failing to find his "treasure", he discovered another one : a Neanderthal skeleton.*

*This is a man of about 25 years old, who died approximately 70,000 years ago.*

*Then the work of Roger Constant was stopped and scientific excavations were undertaken from 1960 to 1965 by the geologist Eugene Bonifay and the anthropologist Bernard Vandermeersch. The disposition of the body and the layout (burial mounds, coffin) tend to prove that this is one of the oldest known Neanderthal burials, along with those of Roc de Marsal, about thirty kilometers further down the valley. These excavations revealed several occupation levels containing Mousterian tools and numerous bone remains of animals, those of the brown bear being the most abundant. This profusion of bear bones led some researchers to speak of a "Cult of the Bear" during the paleolithic era.*



SITE de REGOURDOU  
MONUMENT HISTORIQUE et SITE NATUREL CLASSE  
EN CE LIEU FURENT DECOUVERTS :  
Le Gisement Mars 1954  
l'Homme de Neanderthal 22 Sept 1957 (à Minuit)  
Les Sepultures d'ours bruns | **CULTE** |  
les plus nombreux de la faune quaternaire  
datant de 70.000 ans Recherches en cours



## LASCAUX 2

*Access to the original cave was prohibited in 1963 by a decision of the Minister of Culture in order to preserve the art. In 1983, **Lascaux 2**, the first facsimile in the world of a painted cave, which faithfully reproduces these magnificent works of cave art. The Hall of the Bulls and The Axial Gallery have brought millions of visitors to discover the talent of the artists who painted them 20,000 years ago.*

*But Lascaux is fragile and the huge attendance levels at the facsimile, constructed too near the original, are threatening the preservation of Lascaux. In particular, there are some concerns about the consequences of a wildfire that could alter the natural balance of the hill. That is the reason why the General Council of the Dordogne has begun the construction of a new reproduction of the cave, Lascaux 4. This time it will be entirely redone at the foot of the hill.*

## LASCAUX 4

*Going down to Montignac, you will pass near the new Montignac-Lascaux Parietal Art International Centre (Lascaux 4) which will offer all the splendors of wall art. **OPENING 2016.***

*The Dordogne invites you to a complete rediscovery of the treasures of Humanity with the new Montignac-Lascaux Parietal Art International Centre. The ambition of this site is to be a reference facility for tourism and culture at the international level concerning Rock Wall Art in general, and the Lascaux cave in particular.*

*With the use of new imaging and virtual technologies, the new space will invite visitors to contemplate and feel the genuine emotion of the discovery of the cave, to learn to observe it and to think about the environmental and cultural context in which it was created.*

*The Montignac-Lascaux Parietal Art International Centre also aims to restore Lascaux to its rightful place in World Heritage. It includes a new complete facsimile of the Lascaux caves. Located at the foot of the hill, it allows better protection for the original cave.*



Your next stage of your journey takes place in Montignac, down the hill from Lascaux. The territory of Montignac has been occupied since the Paleolithic period, then colonized by the Romans. In the Middle Ages, a gigantic castle guarded the town. Occupied by the Count of Périgord it was destroyed several times during the many conflicts it experienced. On both sides of the Vézère, the narrow streets, the timbered houses, the old wash houses as well as the fountains are revealed to the visitor.

Continuing towards the hills of the Vézère Valley, the way leads through **Brenac**, a hamlet built in golden stones which is typical of the architecture of the Dordogne... and then through the village of **Valojoux**, occupied since the Prehistoric times with a lovely Romanesque



church restored in the 15th century. Near the village hall, by the stream "le Turançon" you will find a picnic area, washrooms and drinking water.

You will reach **Sergeac** whose imposing fortified church was built on top of Roman ruins and a Visigothic-Merovingian necropolis in the late 11th century. The beautiful fortified tower of the Castle of Cramirat, which long served as a residence for the Master of the Templar Preceptory of Sergeac, still stands in the town center.

Continuing straight ahead on the road through the village, you will reach the valley of Castelmerle, the Mecca of prehistory in the Vézère Valley.



## THE PREHISTORIC SITE OF "CASTEL-MERLE" AT SERGEAC

*This prehistoric site has been owned by the same family for five generations. It is Marcel Castanet who begins the excavations in this valley in 1905 and who will be behind the discovery of the first set of European jewels, the "perle panier", [basket-shaped pearl] made of mammoth ivory.*

In addition to its geographic location, this small "Vallon des Roches" [Valley of the Rocks], has benefited from an exceptional geological formation. Indeed it is constituted of great parallel cliffs less than 100 meters apart. Each of them includes six shelters spread over 400 meters, giving one of the highest concentrations of prehistoric settlements in Aquitaine. The entrance arches of these different shelters collapsed, mainly towards the end of the last glacial period and thus ensured a very good protection of the archaeological layers as seen, in particular, in the two stratigraphic sections of the site.

These shelters, including "les Merveilles" and "Blanchard II", were successively occupied by the Neanderthals, then by the Cro-Magnon, who mainly occupied the best situated shelters on the opposite cliff, like "Reverdit", "Roc d'Acier", "Labattut" and "Souquette". These sites are open to the public because they were partially cleared and excavated. From this research, many relics have been discovered and attributed to different periods of the Cro-Magnon, in order of seniority: the Aurignacian, the Gravettian, the Solutrean and the Magdalenian. Thousands of flints were attributed to the Cro-Magnon's different industries; painted, carved and engraved blocks, and sewing needles have also been discovered.

### The conservation of vestiges

The geological setting of the limestone caves is highly favorable to the preservation of bone remains. They are essential to archaeological studies of human relationships, interaction with wildlife, and more specifically, modes of subsistence.

The formation of rockfall at the foot of the cliffs due to the collapsing of the cliff walls, enabled the protection and the fossilization of many deposits. They were discovered afterwards, often during road work or railway construction. Millennium after millennium, these places often recorded the daily life of our ancestors. They allowed archeologists specializing in prehistory to establish a chronology which spreads over 400,000 years. These sites, known around the world, gave their name to great cultures of Prehistory. These are called eponymous sites: La Madeleine for the Magdalenian, Le Moustier for the Mousterian...

The path of the men of Lascaux leads through the woods, passing near drystone huts, evoking memories of the presence of cultivation on these hillsides [especially vineyards], right up to the foot of the Roque Saint Christophe.

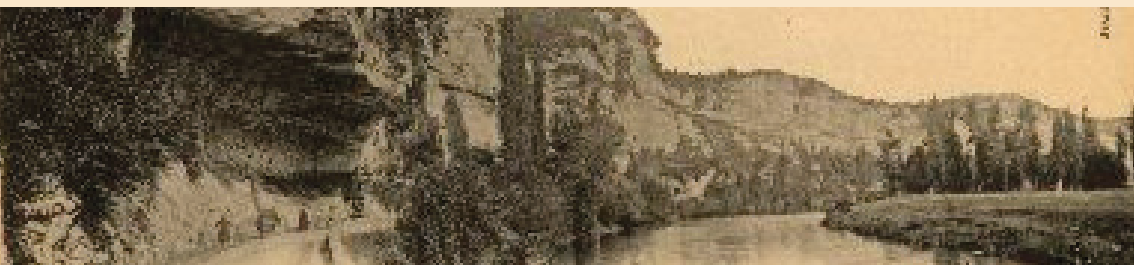
At the end of the 19th century, some curious travelers came to the Vézère Valley to discover the cliffs that sheltered our ancestors. Their thoughts shed light on their vision of prehistoric man at that time.

Harrison Barker is one of those travelers who, after cruising down the Dordogne, went back up the Vézère in 1893 to get to "Le Moustier". Like you, he passed near the Roque Saint Christophe. He recorded his impressions in the book "Two Summers in Guyenne" from which this 1920 translation by G. Margat has been extracted.

### **Harrison Barker's testimony at the Roque Saint Christophe in the 19th century**

*In a side valley close to Le Moustier is a line of high vertical or overleaning rocks. A ledge accessible from the ground runs along the face. [...]*

*The original inhabitants of these hollows may have been savages no more advanced in the arts than those who worked flints, but it is certain that the latest occupiers were much more civilized. Rows of holes roughly cut in the limestone show where the ends of beams once rested, and the use of these timbers was evidently to support a roof that covered much of the ledge. It is quite certain that people lived here in the Middle Ages, and they might do so now but for the difficulty of bringing up water. The security which the position afforded could hardly have been lost sight of in the days when the inhabitants of Guyenne were in constant dread of being attacked. One must therefore be guarded against wild talk about prehistoric man in connection with these rock dwellings, which in many cases were used as fortresses during the three hundred years' struggle between the English and French in Aquitaine.*





*The cliff of "Le Moustier" as it could appear in the eyes of Neanderthal Men when they frequented the banks of the Vézère, during the last ice Age [nearly 50,000 years ago]. Drawing Marcillaud.*

## The troglodyte dwelling in the Vézère Valley

In the Vézère Valley and the adjacent ones, steep cliffs were formed.

On the flank of these cliffs, a particular kind of habitat has developed in the form of wooden buildings which can attain considerable heights.

The horizontal beams were wedged into the rock, in the many holes that can be seen everywhere. The structure was firmly fixed in the cliff with ropes passed through hollowed-out holes in the rock; they are omnipresent if you look carefully.

After the bridge over the Vézère, before you leave the road and take the path on the right, you see the village and "**le gisement du Moustier**" facing you.

Excavated in 1863, "**Le Moustier**", undoubtedly one of the most iconic site of the Neanderthal era, gave its name to the Mousterian period. The site includes two rock-shelters, the upper shelter, also called conventional shelter, and the lower shelter.

The two shelters have delivered a large number of skeletal remains showing a rich wildlife (aurochs, bison, woolly rhinoceros, horses, deer, reindeer, ibex) and a specific Neanderthal industry.

In the lower shelter, two graves were discovered: one was a teenager [1908] and the other, a newborn [1914].

## Le Moustier as seen by Harrison Barker

*Here the valley is broad, but the rocks, which are like the footstools of the hills, shut in the landscape all around. These naked perpendicular masses of limestone, yellow like ochre or as white as chalk, and reflecting the brilliance of the sun, must have afforded shelter to quite a dense population in the days when man made his weapons and implements from flints, and is supposed to have lived contemporaneously with the reindeer. Notwithstanding all the digging and searching that has gone on of late years on this spot, the soil in the neighbourhood of the once inhabited caverns and shelters is still full of the traces of prehistoric man.*

*Shortly before my coming, a savant [everybody is called a savant here who goes about with his nose towards the ground] gave a man two francs to be allowed to dig for a few hours in a corner of his garden. The man was willing enough to have his ground cleared of stones on these terms. The savant therefore went to work, and when he left in the evening he took with him half a sackful of flints and bones.*

The path continues between the cliffside and the river until you get to the site of **La Madeleine**. The shelter of La Madeleine is not open to the public but you can visit the cave occupied in the Middle Ages, built on the second level of the cliff.

*The prehistoric shelter of "La Madeleine", over 250 meters long lies under an overhanging cliff about 45 meters high.*

Facing south, it was a place particularly conducive to the installation of a prehistoric settlement during cold periods. The site has since lent its name to a period known as the Magdalenian era, which thrived across Western Europe between 10,000 and 15,000 years ago.

The archaeological material discovered on the site has provided valuable information on the lifestyle of Cro-Magnon men who stayed there.

The diversity of bone implements found there is important and varied: spears, harpoons, hooks and sewing needles. The tools combine both functional and aesthetic purposes; utilitarian objects are often decorated. Reindeer antlers, bone and ivory were also used to foster a portable art of great wealth.

The Magdalenian is synonymous in many people's minds with reindeer hunters. Indeed, amongst the remains of animals found at "La Madeleine", most of them were reindeer. It is eaten, of course, but its hide is used to make tents, clothing and bedding. Its tendons are used as sewing thread. The Magdalenians are best known for their elaborate worked bone implements: antler and ivory for making punches, harpoons, needles...

The site also delivered a tomb: a 4 year old child, his body covered with many ornaments [shells, beads]. In the 19th century, "La Madeleine" held a privileged place in the philosophical battle between creationists and prehistorians.





Illustration "LA MADELEINE" MAMMOTH : extract Reliquiae Aquitanicae / E. Lartet et H. Christy, 1865-1875 / Séné B-PI - XXVIII]

### THE "LA MADELEINE" MAMMOTH : A KEY PIECE IN THE HISTORY OF PREHISTORY

The La Madeleine mammoth, carved about 14,000 years ago on actual mammoth ivory and discovered in 1864 on this site, is an essential piece in the history of science. It is a very faithful representation of its model. In other words, only an artist who had shared that ancient landscape with these creatures would have been able to record one with such precision and flair – and on a piece of the animal's own ivory. The finding of this ancient art provided unequivocal proof of the deep antiquity of Homo sapiens and that he had once shared the planet with these huge, long-extinct creatures.

So Mankind is therefore "antediluvian", that is to say, already existing before the biblical flood.

Today, the La Madeleine mammoth is preserved in the National Museum of Natural History in Paris. [Illustration : Mammoth Madeleine extract : Reliquiae Aquitanicae / E Lartet and H. Christy, 1865-1875 / Séné B-PI XXVIII].

After La Madeleine, the path leads through the woods toward the heights of Les Eyzies where you will follow the "Boucle de la Micoque" to reach the village.

Attractively marked with informative signs, the "Boucle de la Micoque" presents the sites and the way of life of prehistoric man in the environment of the Vézère Valley. To learn more, we recommend visiting the sites.

**Information : International Division of Prehistory at Les Eyzies [see page 34].**

Located at the confluence of the Beune and the Vézère, the village of Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil, nestled at the foot of towering limestone cliffs, is sometimes nicknamed "the World Capital of Prehistory"...



....and for good reason! Prehistory is represented by a multitude of archaeological sites: historical landmarks such as the Cro-Magnon shelter, discovered by chance in 1868 during the construction of the railway line between the forge of Les Eyzies and the railway station. Five human skeletons were found, one of them adorned with shells. The Font de Gaume's cave contains the last original polychrome paintings open to the public in Europe. The "Pataud" shelter, a prehistoric site adapted for visitors, and a multitude of other sites, can be discovered by visiting one of the information hubs in the village.

Among them, **the Pôle International de Préhistoire\*** [International Centre of Prehistory], with its unusual architecture, gives priority to opening up and integrating with the landscape, and is a place of public awareness to the prehistoric world and the discovery of the valley Vézère.

**\*Tél. : 05 53 06 06 97 - mail : [contact@pole-prehistoire.com](mailto:contact@pole-prehistoire.com)**

**The National Museum of Prehistory\*\*** is located in the remains of a castle of the 16th and 17th centuries, dominated by the imposing cliff overlooking the village of Les Eyzies and the Vézère valley.

In a fully renovated environment, it offers a journey of discovery of Paleolithic cultures and oldest traces of mankind in the Vézère Valley: stone tools, bone or ivory art objects, sculptures, tombs ...

**\*\*Tél : 05.53.06.45.45 - mail : [mnp.eyzies@culture.gouv.fr](mailto:mnp.eyzies@culture.gouv.fr)**

Following impressive cliffs that make a deep impression on travelers, one arrives at the village of Les Eyzies. This happened to Baring Gould, who wrote at the beginning of the twentieth century :

*Opposite to Les Eyzies, hanging like a net or skein of black thread to the face of the precipice, is a hotel, part gallery, part cave - l'Auberge du Paradis [...] When I was last there, reaching the tavern by a ladder erected in a grotto, I learned that an American couple on their honeymoon had recently slept in the guest-chamber scooped out of the living rock [...] The first men who settled in this favoured valley under shelters open to the blaze of the sun, in a soft and pleasant climate, where the air [...] is scented with mint, marjoram and juniper, where with little trouble a salmon might be harpooned, must have multiplied enormously - for every overhanging rock, every cavern, even every fallen block of stone, has been utilised as a habitation.*

### S.Baring Gould 1913

« Cliff Castles and Cave Dwellings of Europe »

The famous **statue** of a Neandertal standing on the rock outside the museum has become the emblem of Les Eyzies. Well known under the name of " the Cro-Magnon Man", its creator, Paul Dardé, baptized it "the Primitive Man", and it was under this name that it was inaugurated in 1931.





## THE MAN AND THE ROCK-SHELTER

Considered as "refuge zone" for humans, animals and plants since ice age times, the Vézère Valley is the single most important place of Paleolithic rock-shelters and cave habitations. They were sometimes occupied briefly and repeatedly, or sometimes for longer, continuous duration for either domestic activities [installation of fireplaces, store-houses to preserve food, flint for tools, meat cutting ...] or as symbolic activities [burial places, art].

It is important to note that the deeper areas of the underground environment were not used for housing because of the darkness, thus confirming the exclusive use of the entrances of the habitat sites. A thorough study shows that the choice of the cavities was not random and a series of parameters probably oriented their choice before every installation :

- **The orientation of the opening** : preferably south in three quarters of the cases.
- **The sunshine** : the valleys are always

wide enough to get some amount of sun even during winter when the sun is less high.

- **The wind** : the choice is often related to a cave sheltered from the predominant westerly winds.

- **the dimensions** : often a few dozen meters, the cave is easier to light and heat.

- **the shape** : the overhanging rock is often important and the rock face above curved inwards enough to constitute an effective shelter and to make it habitable ; one of the few remaining man-made fittings still visible on the walls are the rings carved directly into the rock (ex Cap Blanc, Castanet]

- The geographical location for the provisioning of mineral resources [flint], water and game meat.

In the harsh climate that reigned some 18,000 years ago, the mastery of lighting, the search for water and more favorable temperature conditions may have motivated the conquest of these deep caverns. So far, and in the



Périgord, the occupation of the underground environment in the deepest galleries was limited to the creation of sanctuaries. Decorated Palaeolithic caves bear, on their walls and floors, the evidence of the passage of prehistoric peoples and their artistic expression. However, the less rigorous climatic conditions which marked the end of the Paleolithic, and the runoff of rain into the caves making housing conditions less pleasant, have encouraged humans to abandon these natural shelters.

These shrines reflect only a small part of daily human activity, but due to their enclosed nature, their marks are very well preserved as stippling, fingerprints, hands painted in negative, mouldings etc... This is a possible explanation for the concentration of sites in places of limestone cliffs.

From Les Eyzies, you must now go to Le Bugue. After crossing again the bridge taken on your arrival, go to the small road below the rocks facing you. Then you

reach a path along the Vézère, opposite Le-s Eyzies, which offers a unique view of the village and the cliffs that surround it.

**The hamlet of "Peuch"**, after the farm "Eymaries", is built against the rockface. You will discover its semi-troglodyte houses, whose architecture adopts the form of the rock !

At the bend of the small road, your steps lead you to **the village of Saint Cirq**. Partly built against the rock, the stone-roofed houses seem to merge with the cliffs and the bamboo forest that surrounds them.

***The Sorcerer's cave*** which appears on the right hand side while crossing the village is relatively small [13 meters long and 5 wide]. It contains engravings of horses and bison. Some other engravings are incomplete, including the one dubbed "le sorcier" [the sorcerer] which is visible through a set of mirrors.

Finally, after a walk along the river, which passes behind the tourist sights of Bournat [reconstruction of local life in the 19th century] and the freshwater aquarium, you will arrive at Le Bugue.



Like most villages in the Périgord, **Le Bugue**, located at the confluence of the Vézere river and the Douch river, has been a transit hub since prehistory [see Bara Bahau's cave]. The village developed around the monastic community that was founded in 964. The port was used by foundry masters who exploited the local iron.

In 1319, the King of France, Philip V "the Tall", ordered that the market should take place in Le Bugue on Tuesdays. Since then, for more than 600 years now, the town center becomes more lively every Tuesday morning!

**Bara Bahau** is the most western situated cave of the Vézère Valley. It is located less than 2 kilometers from the centre of Le Bugue.

*To go to the grotto, take the D 703 in the direction of Lalinde and follow the sign posts. About 90 meters long and up to 25 meters wide, Bara Bahau is an enormous excavation. It forms a straight gallery with*

*a height that may go up to 12 meters. In the middle of this long corridor you will find a space containing no engravings where a little stream flows near the bottom end during humid periods.*

*It is only at the end of the excavation that you will discover the rotunda with its engravings. The corridor ends here, facing a large rock slide : the name Barabahau ["badaboum" in the occitan languish] is possibly a symbol for this rock slide.*

*Drawings of animals, interlaced with bear scratches and nodules of silex, form the decoration.*

*Bara Bahau was a favorite place for bears, which in some ways still haunt the cave and have become its symbol.*

The last stage of your journey begins with a steep but short climb. The higher you get the more spectacular the view is over the valley. At the end you arrive at the beautiful village of Limeuil, noted as one of the most beautiful villages of France.



Since ancient times, Limeuil was not only much appreciated for its prominent position at the confluence of the Dordogne and the Vézère river, but also for its limestone terrace, which offered remarkable defense possibilities.

The strategic position of Limeuil made the village a stronghold [against the Romans and later against the Vikings]. The Hundred Years War, followed by the Wars of Religion and the uprising of the Croquants, considerably weakened the town. Limeuil only came to life again in the 19th century through shipping activities.

The Dordogne river was a vital “highway” on which boats loaded with chestnut wood came down from the Auvergne to the regions of Bergerac and Bordeaux where the wood was used for the manufacture of wine casks and barrels. But then came the railroad and the resulting decline made Limeuil lose its workers and craftsmen. Nonetheless, this charming village has regained all of its former splendour [listed among the most beautiful villages of France] and the ambiance of the old times with its numerous artisans and visitors.

Discover the panoramic gardens on the plateau above the confluence of the two

ivers, the medieval part of Limeuil with its ancient gates, the remnants of the fortifications, its small streets, and the port district along the rivers.

*At the end of the Paleolithic (10,000 years BC), the Magdalenians were attracted by the very strategic position at the confluence of these two rivers, and also by the abundance of fish. From 1909 to 1913, excavations were carried out in Limeuil and numerous limestone plaques engraved with pictures of animals of a remarkable quality were found. This produced the idea that there was a Magdalenian art school at that time in Limeuil.*

Walking down the narrow streets of the village brings you to the confluence which marks the end of the trail. With a bit of luck you may see the amazing effect of the colored water of the Vézère flowing into the Dordogne river. The Vézère amasses a lot of mud on its way down from the Corrèze, especially after heavy rains. The red colored water gives spectacular views when it mixes with the much clearer water of the Dordogne. Best to be seen from the terraces above the village.

Table of services											
	HL	B&B	CS	H	GS	B	R	ATM	PH	RS	TO
TERRASSON		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
COLY		X	X	X	X		X				
ST AMAND DE COLY		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
MONTIGNAC		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
VALOJOULX		X									
SERGEAC		X		X			X				
LE MOUSTIER		X		X	X	X	X				
LES EYZIES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT CIRQ		X									
LE BUGUE		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LIMEUIL		X	X	X		X	X				
BUISSON DE DE CADOUIN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**HL** : Hiking lodge [also for groups] - **B&B** : Bed and breakfast - **CS** : Campsite  
**H** : Hôtel - **GS** : Campsite - **B** : Bar - **R** : Restaurant - **ATM** : Money Changer  
**PH** : Pharmacy - **RS** : Railway station - **TO** : Tourist office

## Tourist offices

Tourist office Vézère Périgord Noir - Terrasson

Tél. 05 53 50 37 56

[www.vezere-perigord.fr](http://www.vezere-perigord.fr)

Tourist office Lascaux Dordogne Vallée Vézère

Tél. 05 53 51 82 60

[www.lascaux-dordogne.com](http://www.lascaux-dordogne.com)

Tourist office of Limeuil

Tél. 05 53 63 38 90

[www.limeuil-en-perigord.com](http://www.limeuil-en-perigord.com)

That is the end of your journey.

Should you wish to report a problem, make a comment, or to suggest improvements, please contact us at the following address :

[rando.cd24@dordogne.fr](mailto:rando.cd24@dordogne.fr)

# Note

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Follow the Vézère Valley from its start in the Périgord at Terrasson-Lavilledieu to where it meets the Dordogne river in Limeuil, 90 km downstream.

This « path of the Men of Lascaux » takes you along a valley known for its wealth of archaeological remains and is designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

This trip is a true discovery, a genuine adventure, or even more, an invitation to enter the history of humankind, following in the footsteps of the Men of Lascaux.

