



Dordogne, Limousin & the Lot

POP 1.32 MILLION

Includes ➔

Périgueux	563
Brantôme	567
Bergerac	569
Issigeac & Around . .	570
Monpazier & Around .	571
Dordogne Valley	572
Sarlat-la-Canéda . . .	577
Vézère Valley	580
Limoges	587
Brive-la-Gaillarde . .	595
Cahors	599

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Le Vieux Logis (p573)
- ➔ Les Truffières (p572)
- ➔ Le Petit Paris (p576)
- ➔ Villa Laetitia (p569)
- ➔ La Tour des Vents (p570)
- ➔ Le Saint Martial (p576)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hôtel La Gréزالide (p608)
- ➔ Manoir de Malagorze (p605)
- ➔ Hostellerie Les Griffons (p568)
- ➔ Hôtel Le Saint Cirq (p606)

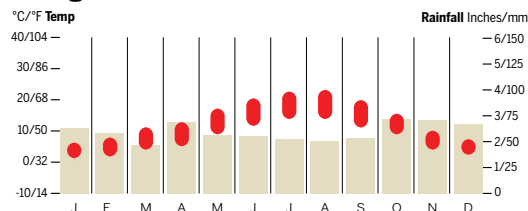
Why Go?

Dordogne, Limousin and the Lot are the heart and soul of *la belle France*, a land of dense oak forests, winding rivers, emerald-green fields and famously rich country cooking. It's the stuff of which French dreams are made: turreted châteaux and medieval villages line the riverbanks, wooden-hulled *gabarres* (traditional flat-bottomed, wooden boats) ply the waterways, and market stalls overflow with foie gras, truffles, walnuts, cheeses and fine wines.

The Dordogne *département* has a bevy of *bastides* (fortified towns) and fantastic medieval castles, as well as Europe's most spectacular cave paintings, and probably the best cuisine. To the northeast, the Limousin *région* – encompassing the Haute-Vienne, Creuse and Corrèze *départements* – is the most rural, strewn with farms and hamlets, as well as the porcelain centre, Limoges. To the south, the Lot *département* is ribboned with rivers to cruise and caverns to explore, plus dramatic hilltop villages, and medieval settlements.

When to Go

Limoges



May & Jun Take to the rivers and climb ramparts before the crowds get thick.

Jul & Aug Sup on local produce at Dordogne's excellent restaurants and summer night markets.

Dec–Feb Browse markets selling Périgord black truffles.



Dordogne, Limousin & the Lot Highlights

1 Admiring the prehistoric artwork of the **Vézère Valley** (p580)

2 Exploring the cliff-face sanctuaries at **Rocamadour** (p603)

3 Wandering the russet-stone streets of **Sarlat-la-Canéda** (p577)

4 Cruising the Dordogne River near **La Roque Gageac** (p574),

Bergerac (p569) or **Brantôme** (p567)

5 Sampling the region's local produce at village **markets**, such as Issigeac's (p570) or Martel's (p605)

6 Strolling a 1st-century Roman villa at Périgueux' **Musée Gallo-Romain Vesunna** (p565)

7 Picking up porcelain at the renowned china factories of **Limoges** (p587)

8 Traipsing through vibrant medieval cities, including **Figeac** (p607) and **Cahors** (p599)

9 Wandering the ramparts of medieval castles at **Castelnaud** (p573), **Beynac** (p573) and **Najac** (p609)