

Castets-en-Dorthe to Libourne - Hiking cruise

Day 1 (Saturday) : Arrival Day in Libourne : Bus transfer at 2:00 p.m. from Bordeaux train station to barge in Castets. Boarding at 3:00 p.m.

Day 2 (Sunday): Libourne -

SAINT EMILION

1. LOOP DES CHÂTEAUX DE SAINT-EMILION

Distance: 6 mi. 10 km

2. LOOP SAINT-EMILION GRAND CRUS, AUSONE, ANGELUS AND MANY MORE ...

Distance: 5 mi. 8km

LOOP CONDAT: TO RETURN TO THE STARTING POINT:

Distance: 5 mi. 8km

LOOP OF THE BANKS OF THE DORDOGNE:

Distance: 3.7 mi. 6.5km

LOOP DE FRONSAC AND CHÂTEAUX: 15KM.

Distance: 9.5 mi. 15km

Day 3 (Monday): BOURG SUR GIRONDE.

LOOP BOURG & ROMANESQUE CRYPT:

Distance: 7 mi. 11 km

LOOP DE BLAYE: 17KM

Distance: 10.5 mi. 17 km

Day 4 (Tuesday) : LAMARQUE.

LOOP AROUND MARAIS EARRINGS ARCINS-SOUSSANS:

Distance: 10.5 mi. 17 km

LOOP AROUND CHÂTEAUX FROM MARGAUX:

Distance: 5.5 mi. 9 km

Day 5 (Wednesday) : HEART OF BORDEAUX

AROUND THE GARONNE RIVER :

Distance: 6 mi. 10 km

BORDEAUX UNESCO :

Distance: 7.5 mi. 12km

Day 6 (Thursday): LOUPIAC

LOOP SAINTE CROIX DU MONT

Distance: 11 mi. 18 km

LOOP CADILLAC:

Distance: 5 mi. 8 km

LOOP LOUPIAC:

Distance: 7 mi. 11 km

Day 7 (Friday): CASTETS-EN-DORTHE

LOOP LA RÉOLE – LE CANAL

Distance: 10.5 mi. 17,5 km

LOOP LE CANAL - LA RÉOLE –

Distance: 10-11mi. (16-18 km)

Day 8 (Saturday) : Disembarkation in Castets and transfer back to Bordeaux leaves barge at 9:00, arrives at train station around 10:00.

Day 1 (Saturday) : Arrival Day - Bus transfer @ 2pm from Gare St Jean Train Station in Bordeaux to barge docking location in Libourne. Boarding at 3pm. Optional walk around Libourne.
In the evening, a welcome cocktail awaits you on board, followed by a tour presentation and dinner.

Day 2 (Sunday): Libourne

Beginning in Libourne, the road will take you through the famous Saint-Emilion wine areas.

SAINT EMILION

You take the train to Libourne train station to the railway station of Saint-Emilion. (9min).

Once at the station of Saint-Emilion, you go to the town (0.6mi./1.7 km) Walking on the countryside, criss crossed with vines, you will enjoy the unspoiled UNESCO World Heritage landscape of medieval villages and surrounding vineyards. Following picturesque back roads and paths, you will get a glimpse of Saint Emilion's most famous Châteaux and walk past some of the world's most famous wine estates. A true paradise for wine lovers!

In Saint Emilion, a highlight of the week, you may choose to visit an underground monolithic church, climb the King's tower for an incredible view of the village, or visit a winery shop for a tasting.

After 2 tours available to you with such exceptional all :

LOOP DES CHÂTEAUX DE SAINT-EMILION

Distance: 6 mi. 10 km

Difficulty: medium

After enjoying the city, this hike takes you to the middle areas of the Great Saint-Emilion Cru du Château Mondot, Chateau Pavie-Macquin, Château Soutard, Tower of La Clotte, Château Vilmorein, Château Haut Sarpe, Château Brown, Château Cause, Château Fontbrauge, Château Laroque, Château Guillemot.

LOOP SAINT-EMILION GRAND CRUS, AUSONE, ANGELUS AND MANY MORE ...

Distance: 5 mi. 8km

Difficulty: Easy

Go to the heart of the southern and western slopes vineyards, with its magnificent views and its world famous prestigious chateaux, you will pass a dozen, and noticing a lot!

This loop runs through the vineyards, but do not worry, you will always be very close to Saint-Emilion which will very often still visible.

Among the most famous Châteaux:

Château Ausone 1er Grand Cru Classified A, Château La Madeleine, Chateau Angelus (1er Grand Cru Classified A), Jean du Château Mayne Chateau Grand Mayne, Château Franc Mayne and huts perched in the cedars, which are actually houses.

You enjoy magnificent views of the Dordogne valley, discover many Châteaux: Goudichau, Fontplégade and many others ...

LOOP CONDAT: TO RETURN TO THE STARTING POINT:

Distance: 5 mi. 8km

Difficulty: Easy

Minutes the city center of Libourne, over 450ha nature: meadows, vineyards, woods, Dordogne but also storks, deer, wild boar (do not worry they are not visible the day ...). See also a beautiful chapel, Château Vidélot and park.

Along the Dordogne, you admire the Château and its park Vidélot belongs to the Moueix family, famous winemakers traders, owner of Château Petrus among others ...

You also perceive the Chapel of Our Lady of Condat in its green , XII and XV Gothic Revival with extraordinary interior.

LOOP OF THE BANKS OF THE DORDOGNE:

Distance: 3.7 mi. 6.5km

Difficulty: Easy

Discover a little known part at the gates of Libourne after a few minutes the inevitable, let the traffic for the vines and for the tranquility of the banks of the Dordogne. If it is hot and if the sun is burning, you will be in the shade and cool on return. The presence of the menhir is surprising.

The menhir is located fifty meters from the road from Libourne to Branne and 200m from the Dordogne where once stood the port of Saint-Emilion. It is drawn on top of the north slope of the hill opposite the Dordogne. Its dimensions are impressive (5.20 m high by 3 m wide and 1.50 m thick). The weight of mégalithe is estimated at 50 T, taking into account the buried part. This is the largest menhir of the Southwest of France dating from the Late Neolithic (2600-2300 BC.).

After passing the "Chapel Lescours" quietly tuck along the Dordogne to lovely homes and many small hamlets friendly.

LOOP DE FRONSAC AND CHÂTEAUX:

Distance: 9.5 mi. 15km

Difficulty: Medium / difficult

Through vineyards and Châteaux, a rather hilly loop with many points of view.

You visit Libourne and walk through the vineyards and cross many Châteaux Château Sauvage. Château Gandineau the Château Coustolle, Château la Valade, Château Mazeris (white path), the Château Mause and Château Barrabaque. You contemplate a magnificent view of the Dordogne valley and its meanders, you even have a bench to take the time! Starting again towards Château Bodet around then you join the House of Fronsac wines, time for a tasting halt before joining the boat.

In the late afternoon, the ship will cruise the wide Gironde estuary to the jetty of Bourg, a picturesque little town near the conjunction of the Gironde and Dordogne rivers. The old city center overlooks the Gironde estuary.

Day 3 (Monday): BOURG SUR GIRONDE.

Today's walking will take you through endless vineyards, fairytale Châteaux and elegant manor houses. Be enchanted by the "good life" (sweet life), so typical for this wine region.

LOOP BOURG & ROMANESQUE CRYPT:

Distance: 7 mi. 11 km

Difficulty: medium

Discover the pretty harbor of Bourg, the edges of the Dordogne and the hilly landscape of Haute Gironde.

The Bourg town deserves a separate visit with its extraordinary heritage. Starting from the pretty port of Bourg, you follow the marked route along the Dordogne. You pass the Châteaux and split Courpon Croute. You go back through the vineyards and follow the route of the "loop of the Romanesque crypt" to get to the crypt of the Libarde on your left. Then you follow the path that winds down through the vineyards to the small road leading to Bourg at the foot of the citadel.

LOOP DE BLAYE: 17KM

Distance: 10.5 mi. 17 km

Difficulty: medium

You have to take the bus 201 in Bourg-sur-Gironde at the House of Wine and stop at Blaye (City Hall stop) -> hours: between 9:30 and 17:30 every hour passing.

In Blaye, you walk through or choose to take a tour of the impressive Vauban citadel Fortress (UNESCO World Heritage Site) to admire the military masterwork of the architect of "Sun King" Louis XIV.

The vineyards of Blaye are consisting of a land of incredible richness. It hugs the banks of the estuary hills and higher plateaus, cut by small valleys.

Since the Middle Ages, Countless numbers of pilgrims on Their Way to Santiago de Compostela in Spain have Passed through this area.

Return to Bourg via the 'Corniche', a scenic, quiet road along the Gironde estuary Where You will pass beautiful riverside homes. You will also see a partially sunken ship from WWII near the cellars where French military would hide weapons and fuel.

This area offers rolling hills covered with endless vineyards and dotted with Châteaux, elegant monuments such as the Romanesque church of Bayon and the ruins of a Gallo-Roman villa at Plassac. You have the choice to visit some Châteaux as Tayac, Eyquem, and many others.

Back in Bourg, near the port typical wash allows you to cool off in the back of your day excursion.

Day 4 (Tuesday) : LAMARQUE.

In the morning, the ship cruises from Bourg to Lamarque in the Gironde estuary, to start your tour in the famous Médoc wine area

LOOP AROUND MARAIS EARRINGS ARCINS-SOUSSANS:

Distance: 10.5 mi. 17 km

Difficulty: Easy

The walk through the marshes of Arcins and Soussans, classified site Natura 20001 by the "habitats", they offer extremely natural environments rich and diverse or rare: a salty and brackish vegetation outcome of tidal movements, wet grasslands maintained by grazing or mowing extensively, aquatic suitable for reproduction and feeding of amphibians, dragonflies and waterfowl, wet woodland composed mainly alder and ash trees. This loop's embellished interpretation panels will be an opportunity to rediscover the fauna and flora of the marshes. On the course, an observation tower allows to get high or to scrutinize contemplate the forest and its inhabitants. You pass an old stone wall with a pointed roof dated from the second half of the nineteenth century. On this road lined with pastures and vineyards, you can watch various wild plants like burdock (sort of purple thistle) and teasel (blue thistle also called 'the Cabaret birds "because of its ability to give to drink and eat), bindweed (white flowers), and butterfly species such as the copper marshes.

You join the communal washhouse of Soussans, near the Château Haut Breton Larigaudière, towards the Holy Roman Church, neo-Gothic church steeple built in 1873. You pass the Château The Galiane, Château Tower Mons, the Château Deyrem Valentine, chartreuse XVIII - XIX centuries ... You have the option of booking visit and taste wine at Chateau Grand Tayac.

LOOP AROUND CHÂTEAUX FROM MARGAUX:

Distance: 5.5 mi. 9 km

Difficulty: Easy

Welcome to Margaux! The protected designation of origin (AOC) Margaux together with twenty-one Châteaux, the largest number of classified growths of the Medoc. The communes of Margaux and Cantenac, account for only 18 Crus.

From the village of Lamarque, you arrive by bus at the House of Wine and Tourism where a wide selection of Grand Cru vintage Margaux appellation awaits. After your trip you will let also may be tempted by a wine tasting in the cellar or property and / or a chocolate tasting in the shop Mademoiselle de Margaux Medoc which the Branches are the specialty.

You pass the **Château Lascombes** dated seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, the Château that offers visits to its cellars by appointment. At the corner of Marshal Foch Street you can admire the old coffee shop Lacroix, former inn horses, which preserved façade sculpture of a horse's head, landmark indicating the location of the stables. This facade is an example of stone work façade realized in the second half of the nineteenth century. The **Rauzan-Gassies** opens the doors of its vineyards and invites you to circumvent them. You will see the Château **Marquis de Terme** in neoclassical style dated nineteenth and twentieth centuries. You discover the property of **Marojallia** Château XVIIIe XIX centuries behind the Château. **Durfort-Vivens.**

In front of the Château gate Rauzan Ségla (Château of the sixteenth, seventeenth and nineteenth centuries Second Cru classified according to the classification of 1855), you take the white paved path through vineyards towards the **Chateau Palmer**. This Château in the neo-Gothic facade was rebuilt in 1856 by architect Burguet for its new owners, the Pereire bankers. Former Château (Chateau De Gasco) dated XVIII century was completely demolished at that time. This is the General Staff of the British Army Charles Palmer, former owner of the Château that had changed the name in 1814.

- Little variation of 2.5 km: You will discover on your right Château **Issan** hidden behind beautiful weeping willows and a lock regulating water levels between the Gironde and the Maqueline before arriving at the port of Issan and its breathtaking view of the Island Margaux. This idyllic landscape invites you to a picnic break well deserved. You reach the entrance of Château Margaux. On the road, you will see the Palmer Château winery, Vincent Château and **Pontac Lynch** Château.

Follow the path of Lynch. A large black gate on your right will open the doors of the property Château Margaux, 1er Grand Cru Classified in 1855, not to be overlooked! Indeed, this world famous Château of neo-classical style of the nineteenth century (1811), built by the Bordeaux architect Louis Combes, the Palladian inspiration is beautifully preserved. It is also protected under the Historic Monuments. One can admire in particular on the south facade of the building a beautiful huge peristyle built on two floors composed of a large triangular pediment supported by four conic columns. Just outside the Château cellars, stables, workshops, etc.

You also can borrow the magnificent plane trees that will take you straight to the Château Margaux (path parallel to the church road). Go past the parish church of St. Michael and its cemetery (former chapel of the Château Margaux dated eighteenth and XIXe centuries). Admire the **Malescot** Saint-Exupéry, the former estate of Count Jean-Baptiste de Saint Exupéry (great-great grandfather of the writer), Marquis of Alesme Château, the Château or the Ritz Zuger **Château Ferriere / the Gurgue** whose characteristic is to possess in a rear facade polygonal tower at four levels.

Your boat cruises to Bordeaux in the center of the port of the moon, pontoon of honor

Day 5 (Wednesday): HEART OF BORDEAUX

AROUND THE GARONNE RIVER :

Distance: 6 mi. 10 km

Difficulty: Easy

This tour of Bordeaux give you the opportunity to discover its architectural gems, mainly near architectural buildings and paths along the Garonne river, offers beautiful panoramic views of the waterfront city. The docks around Bordeaux are made for you. You will enjoy bypassing the river. Connecting the left and right banks of the Garonne, commissioned by Napoleon and inaugurated in 1822, the "pont de pierre" was the first stone bridge ever built in Bordeaux and now forbidden to car traffic. Following the river, you join the bridge Chaban-Delmas, a vertical-lift bridge inaugurated in 2013 ... Its main span is 110 m (361 ft) long. As of 2013, it is the longest vertical-lift bridge in Europe.

BORDEAUX UNESCO :

Distance: 7.5 mi. 12km

Difficulty: Easy

In the afternoon, keep on enjoying the UNESCO sites of Bordeaux. Its main attractions are the Cailhau Gate (royal entrance to the city), the Big Bell of Pey Berlan, the Golden Triangle, the Girondins column, the water mirror and Place de la Bourse. Visit historic squares, a hidden garden and quaint locations where you can stop for a tasting of Bordeaux's renowned "canneles" and coffee or take some fresh oysters and white wine. Be sure to explore the town's streets and shops where fine wines are still stored in underground cellars carved in stone, do some shopping along the pedestrian-friendly Rue Sainte Catherine or visit the newly opened Cite du Vin.

In the evening, the MS Bordeaux sail to Bordeaux.

Day 6 (Thursday): LOUPIAC.

LOOP SAINTE CROIX DU MONT

Distance: 11 mi. 18 km

Difficulty: Easy

You cross the vineyard of Sainte-Croix-du-Mont. Legend has it that a Lord crusading came too late for the harvest and found that the rot had developed on grapes. He still reaped its production and decided to make wine. To his surprise, he had discovered a sweet white wine that would make the reputation of Sainte Croix du Mont.

Before the church of Sainte Croix du Mont a view of the valley and the river, between the trees. The parish of Sainte Croix du Mont existed since the late twelfth century. The city has a unique geological site consists of fossils of oysters overlooking the Garonne. Dated to 22 million years ago by geologists, they settled here in shallow water. Such as coral, they are located on each other forming a biomass to form a real cliff. The withdrawal of the ocean was followed by the rise of the right bank slopes which today offers us an exceptional panorama.

LOOP CADILLAC:

Distance: 5 mi. 8 km

Difficulty: Easy

From the boat, you can stop and visit the Château Loupiac Gaudiet, the Gallo-Roman villa, the church of Loupiac, the cemetery of the 'forgotten' Cadillac before initiating a more urban hiking around the city ... you enter the walled town of Cadillac and join the garden at the foot of the imposing Château of the Dukes of Epernon overlooking the city. Place of the hall, streets and side streets are nearby. From the square of the Château, the church and the funeral chapel. The walk continues through under the door of the Clock, which allows returning to the port on the Garonne. You are at the foot of the ramparts and you join the boat along the Garonne. You see the Cadillac wine house that awaits you for a tasting of local wines.

LOOP LOUPIAC:

Distance: 7 mi. 11 km

Difficulty: medium

Pretty walk in the vineyard Loupiac between path and some portions of road. These are always topped with a slope for anti-bitumen ...

Located on the right bank of the Garonne, you pass the church of Loupiac, the Cornelian vineyard, Clos Jean right, the hamlet Couloumet. You will pass under several palombières and various trails before returning to your ship.

Day 7 (Friday): CASTETS-EN-DORTHE

LOOP LA RÉOLE – LE CANAL

Distance: 10.5 mi. 17,5 km

Difficulty: Easy

After a restful night on board, you will have choice to discover the lovely Saint Macaire with its wonderful gate and walls. There is opportunity to visit the former residence of the writer Francois Mauriac as well as having your first wine tasting at a château.

LOOP LE CANAL - LA RÉOLE –

Distance: 10-11mi. (16-18 km)

Difficulty: Easy

Walking along korn and sunflower fields you reach La Réole, using an Eiffel style bridge over the river Garonne. This town is famous because in 1190 Richard Lionheart, on his way to the holy Land, gave the town hall building to thank the locals for their loyalty to the English crown. This historical place holds two Châteaux, an impressive church as well as narrow cobblestoned streets.

To end the day, you will enjoy to step foot along the « canal de la Garonne » and its deep blue water, built in Napoleon times. The greenway is performed on the towpath of the Canal de Garonne who will join the Canal du Midi in Toulouse. It is, according to the sections on either of the 2 banks. No traffic, only the birds will accompany you. The passage of the locks makes this course unique.

You can walk back to the boat enjoying the amazing scenery the region has to offer.

In Castets-en-Dorthe, you can visit the “Château du Hamel”, Château of the 16th century built by a nephew of the pope Clement the fifth, which was renewed centuries after centuries. Following the Canal des Deux Mers (Canal of Two Seas) that links the Atlantic to the Mediterranean, you will discover this lush rural countryside.

This evening, back to the MSBordeaux for your captain dinner, cocktail and party onboard.

Day 8 (Saturday): Castets-en-Dorthe

Disembark and transfer optional bus to Bordeaux, after breakfast.

The Cruise Hiking is in the opposite direction from one week to another.