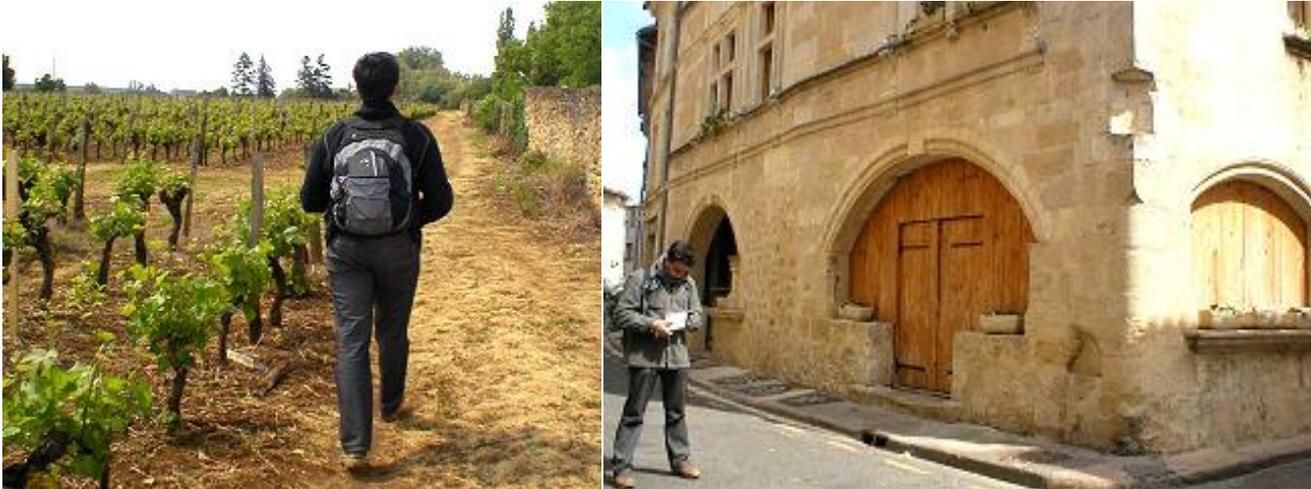


France – Bordeaux Wine Walking Tour 2019

Self Guided

8 days/7 nights or 7 days/6 nights



Self-guided walking tour across some of the most famous vineyards of the world. From the vineyard of St Emilion, without any doubt the most famous, to the vineyard of Sauternes, famous for its high-class wines, you will also cross the Entre-Deux-Mers area to discover charming villages which astonish by their marvelously preserved inheritance, and by many wine châteaux and wine storehouses which decorate the landscape by their sumptuous architectures.

Hiking tour with varied landscapes, alternating footpaths across vines and woods, edges of rivers and minor roads, without forgetting stop over in wine producers. You will be welcomed each evening in Charming guesthouses, hotels***, and sumptuous castles or wine châteaux in the heart of the vines.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival in Bordeaux and transfer to St Emilion

Arrival in the train station or Bordeaux Airport. Taxi transfer to your guesthouse or hôtel*** in St Emilion. Delivery of the route notes. Dinner by yourself.

Day 2 Saint Emilion vineyards – UNESCO inheritance 2 options 10km/15kms – 70m level variation

You begin your week with a hiking day in the area of St Emilion. All around the city are vineyards, Châteaux and wine properties, like Petrus or château La Clotte or Beau Séjour, well planted in the grounds, proud of their history and the men who set them up. Circle the characteristic landscape of the coomb as well as specificities of the vineyards. Exceptional sights formed by a succession of coomb covered with vines. This “landscape” was the first “non architectural” site, classified by the world inheritance of UNESCO. Back to your guesthouse or hotel and dinner in a restaurant located at the heart of the village. Dinner arranged by yourself.

Day 3 Saint Emilion: medieval village

This Step is optional and not available in the 7 days/6 nights tour

The morning. Private guided visit of one of the oldest wineries of Saint-émilion. This winery is one of the jewels of St.Emilion: The Couvent des Jacobins followed by a wine tasting of 4-5 great wines of Saint-émilion and/or Pomerol... Around 2 hours

The afternoon. you will have a guided tour of the underground monuments of the city. Built in amphitheatre and true museum style in the open air, the town of Saint-Emilion will astonish you. Its troglodyte tradition is seizing: a single church monolith in the world, more than 70 hectares of underground galleries dug in the calcareous rock. The monuments and vestiges of the great Roman time follow one another along the steep lanes, defying the rules of time the most established. Around 1 hour.

At the end of the afternoon, taxi transfer to Camiran, in the “Entre- Deux-Mers” vineyard.

Dinner and night in guesthouse, renovated and arranged in bedrooms within a cordial framework of old stones and wood.

At the edge of the swimming pool, you enjoy the charm, the sight, the relaxation and the pleasures of South-west.

The host will accommodate you this evening, to discover a regional kitchen and wines of the soil.

Accommodation in “La Lézardiere” Gite de France 3 epis or “Le Clos du Terré” Label Clévacances (3 clés)

Day 4 Entre-deux-Mers area

15km - 100m level variation

The Entre-Deux-Mers area, between the Dordogne and the Garonne rivers, is a triangle of ground, water and stones which surprises with its cultural variety.

You will cross a part of this vineyard which profits from an exceptional geographical site on the slopes dominating the valley of the Garonne. At the end of the afternoon, you will arrive at your place down the Garonne Valley and will be accommodated in an entirely restored old house, with a 3000m² shadowed and flowered park, in the heart of the cute village in the edge of the Garonne.

Dinner in your guesthouse accommodation “Le Clos du Terré” Label Clévacances

Day 5 From Caudrot to St Macaire

10km – 25m level variation

You will walk through a landscape of greenery, along the vines and the estuary of the Gironde; Castles and fishermen’s huts of the area offer astonishing sights. You will be able to stop in the small port and its locks marking the departure of famous “Canal du Midi”, linking the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea. The footpath leads you directly to the medieval city of St Macaire, site is protected by the historic buildings since 1965. You will take time to visit this village at your leisure.

Dinner and night in hotel Les Feuilles d’Acanthe 3*** in heart of the city, with swimming pool.

Day 6 Loop St Macaire to Sainte Croix du Mont

8-16km – 100m level variation

Above Saint-Macaire, the hills open to splendid scenic views. One may spot there- the dark spots of the tobacco drying sheds. In this landscape of hills and small valleys, the vines succeed the meadows and the thickets of leafy trees. One discovers many mills and castles there, opening very broad sights on changing reliefs.

This circuit will bring you to the “Domaine de Malagar”, residence of the writer François Mauriac, where you will be able to visit and to the tomb of the famous painter Toulouse Lautrec. You can also visit the Château Laurette (Sweet white wine producer) or the Château Loubens before reaching the village of Sainte Croix du Mont, perched on a slope, offering a spectacular view on the Garonne Valley and remarkable for its wines and caves, whose walls are covered with fossilized oyster benches and where cellars and even a vault were arranged. Don’t forget the church there as well.

(At the end of the afternoon, return to the hotel at St Macaire and transfer in the taxi until Sauternes.

Accommodation in the Château d’Arche****, beautiful chartreuse of the 17th century located at the heart of the wine property. (Tasting of the wine of the property). Dinner in restaurant.

Notice: In case of non availability, you will spend two nights in Barsac..

Day 7 From Sauternes to Barsac (Sauternes vineyards) 15km – 60 m level variation

Notice: If accommodation in Barsac, short transfer in the morning to the daily walking departure, in Sauternes

Escape the Crowds

2

Located on left bank of the Garonne, the high-class wine vineyards of Sauternes are located. Throughout your route, you will pass well-known wine producers like Château La Tour Blanche and château Rayne Vigneau and will be able to appreciate the small local inheritance (churches, mills, laundrettes...) but also a varied natural inheritance: landscapes of vine, forest and the Ciron River, wild small river formerly used for the transport of wood. You will walk in an exceptional vineyard by its single soil which results from two centuries of knowledge which gives quality and prestige to the wines of Sauternes and Barsac.

Once accommodated, you will finish the day by an “aperitif tasting” in the Château Gravas. Like other high-class wines of Sauternes, the fame of the Château Gravas date of the time of Richard Coeur de Lion (XII century). Lodging and dinner in the castle of Camperos and the Néo-Renaissance charm of XIXème with its vast rooms having view on the vines or the park. Swimming pool.

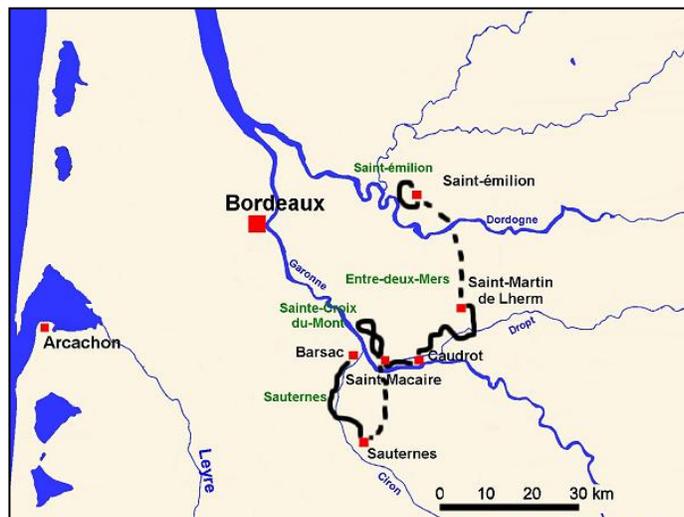
Day 8 Departure

Breakfast and transfer to the Train station of Barsac or Langon

Additional Day:

Possibility of additional days in Bordeaux Hotel 3*** in the heart of the “Bordeaux Historic”, in front of the “Grand Theatre” and the Tourism Office. Brand renovated quarter with many pedestrian streets. Superb!

From the Chateau de Camperos, take the train to Bordeaux. The hotel is located at 50m from the tramway stop.



DATES & PRICES 2019

Dates for 2019

Starts daily from April to October 2019 (minimum 2 people)

6 nights Tour

€870 per person sharing

+€270 single supplement – subject to availability

7 nights Tour

€985 per person sharing

+€330 single supplement – subject to availability

What does the tour price include?

- Route notes
- Transfer of the luggage at every step
- Taxi transfers from Bordeaux and 2 small transfers during the stay
- 6 or 7 night in 3 and 4 stars hotels and guesthouses , breakfast included
- 5 Dinners (1/4 wine and coffee included)
- Visit and tasting (4-5 wines) in the Couvent des Jacobins (on 8 days tour)
- The guided visit of Saint-émilion (on 8 days tour)

Notice: For the visit of the wine Château, you will have to telephone directly to the Château the day before in order to arrange rendezvous time.

What is not included?

- The lunch for the day in the Saint-emilion village (8 days tour)
- The dinner in Saint-emilion
- The train from Barsac (or Langon) to Bordeaux: around €7 per person
- If needed: Transfer from Bordeaux train station to Bordeaux airport (bus shuttle): around €8 per person

Options :

- Half Board (5 lunches) €65
- Extra dinner in Saint-émilion (drinks not included): €55 per dinner
- Additional night in Bordeaux (3*** Hotel B&B): €80 per person in double room, €135 for single room

WHAT TO BRING

Your enjoyment of your walking holiday will be greatly helped by having the right gear. The following list should help you in planning your packing for your trip.

Footwear: Good footwear is vital for a happy walking/hiking holiday! We recommend waterproof, breathable, walking boots with good ankle support. Boots which are “broken in” (i.e. not brand new), teamed with **well fitting hiking socks** will keep your feet snug and dry and help to avoid blisters.

Hiking Clothes

We recommend the “onion look” of layering clothing as the best protection against heat/cold:

- Base Layer –this layer should not retain moisture but transport it away from the skin (there are lots of “wick away” fabrics now on the market.
- Insulation layer – this layer should stop you from losing body heat – fleece is ideal
- Outer Layer – this layer should keep you dry even in a downpour! A waterproof, breathable jacket and over-trousers are as important as your comfy boots. You should bear in mind that clothing tends to lose its “waterproofness” over time so if you have had your gear for many years it might be time to treat yourself with a trip to an outdoor store!
- Walking trousers/ shorts (avoid denim)
- Warm hat and gloves for chilly mornings or high mountains
- Sun hat
- Walking stick/pole (a great help on uneven terrain)

Daypack - a small comfortable rucksack to carry the bits and pieces you will need during the day:

- Moleskin/plasters/”second skin” – ward off any impending blisters before they become a problem!
- Sun screen
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Waterproof map case
- Mobile phone

GENERAL INFORMATION

Money - The unit of currency is the Euro (€), 100 cent = € 1.

Travel Insurance - It is essential to take out holiday insurance to cover cancellation, personal accident, illness, or loss of possessions. This can be obtained from travel agents, or airlines.

Travel

Local airports: Both Bergerac and Bordeaux and/or Charles de Gaulle are well placed and have international connection options. Both these options are quite expensive to get from, so our advice would be:

Bordeaux airport or Bergerac airport- Then train to Bordeaux and taxi transfer from there.

You can of course make your own way to and from the tour or alternatively take the Euro. All details on trains in France are available through the website www.raileurope.com/us/index.htm.