

GOUFFRE DE PADIRAC

L'INCROYABLE AVENTURE SOUTERRAINE

SALES & BOOKINGS DEPARTMENT

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**GROUPS
& PROFESSIONALS**

THE REAL
“WONDER”
BEGINS HERE*

WHAT YOU'VE BEEN SAYING

“ Appropriate arrangements made for welcoming groups; **their comfort is an absolute priority!** A free bus car park, a personalised reception area for them on their arrival, **a guide on hand** for them and quick access to the tour. **Visitors are well looked after...** essential nowadays for ensuring client satisfaction! ”

ANNE - QUERCY DÉCOUVERTES
www.quercy-decouvertes.com

“ Attentive and responsive professionals, effective processing of our order from when we specified our options through to invoicing, **time saved** with a single contact person for booking tours of the caves and the restaurant. ”

MARINE ET SANDRINE
OFFICE DE TOURISME DE LA VALLÉE DE LA DORDOGNE
www.vallee-dordogne.com/groupes



1900

“ The Gouffre de Padirac is an exceptional site in its own right! **Customers are always dazzled** by this geological marvel! A few months ago, the group booking and welcoming system was redesigned, making things much easier for tourism professionals. **The effective and pleasant sales** department knows how to listen to professionals and meet their expectations. So don't delay, think about a visit to the Gouffre de Padirac! ”

LÆTITIA - VOYAGES RUBAN BLEU RODEZ
www.rubanbleu-autocars.com/fr/voyages-ruban-bleu



1956

“ We are delighted to have been working with the Gouffre de Padirac for several years now – it's just a few metres from our Moulin Rouge Hotel and Restaurant site in Terrasson. Our individual customers and groups are **always filled with wonder** when they visit this outstanding site. Don't pass up this opportunity if you are in our fine region! ”

ANNABELLE - HÔTEL MOULIN ROUGE TERRASSON
www.hotel-dordogne-perigord.com

“ A special group welcoming service **makes it easier** to work with groups and organise their visits when they arrive at the Gouffre de Padirac. The booking service **is highly responsive**, making for a **wide overview** when finalising schedules. Thank you for paying as much attention to service providers as to visitors. ”

NATHALIE - CAP FRANCE TERROU
www.capfrance-terrou.com



2020

More than 130 years of adventure!

*Édouard-Alfred Martel, the first person to explore the Gouffre de Padirac

THE CAVE IN A FEW FIGURES

More than
25 million
visitors filled
with wonder!

1st

FRANCE'S MOST VISITED
NATURAL SUBTERRANEAN
HERITAGE SITE

2,2 km

OF TRAILS TO VISIT
EITHER ON FOOT
OR BY BOAT

A NATURAL
CHASM

33 m

IN DIAMETER

A SUBTERRANEAN RIVER

103 m

BENEATH
THE EARTH'S SURFACE

75 m

DEEP

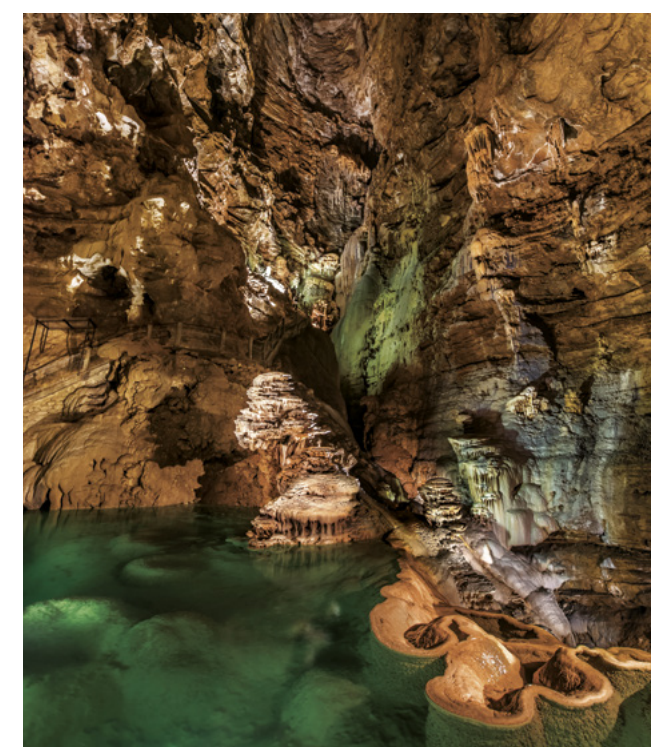
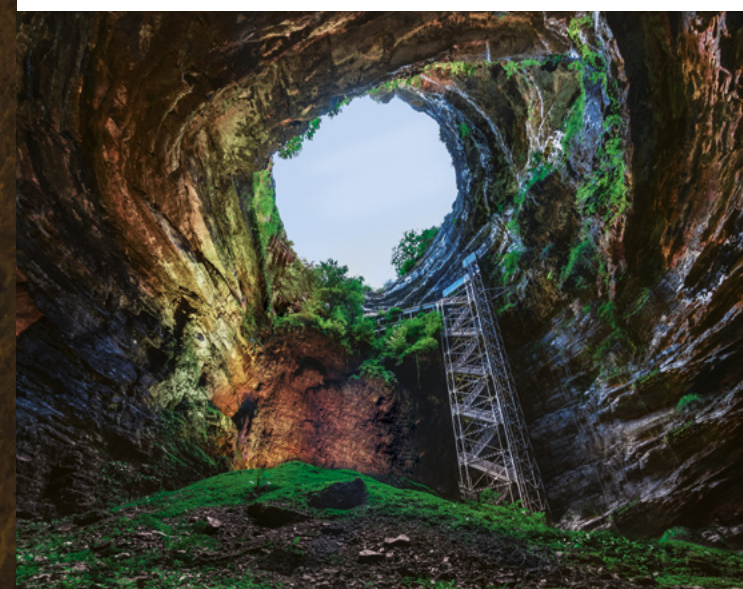
94 m

HIGH VAULT
IN THE GRAND DÔME
CHAMBER

MORE THAN

503 000

VISITORS IN 2019



WHO KNOWS WHICH SURPRISE IS WAITING FOR YOU



1st site

FRANCE'S MOST VISITED NATURAL
SUBTERRANEAN HERITAGE SITE



ONE OF EUROPE'S MOST EXTENSIVE
GEOLOGICAL CURIOSITIES



3th site

MOST VISITED SITE IN OCCITANIE



AN AUDIO TOUR GUIDE TRANSLATED INTO
6 LANGUAGES INCLUDED IN YOUR ENTRY
FEE (4 LANGUAGES FOR CHILDREN)



FUN & EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS
DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE



A SPECIAL, PERSONALISED WELCOME
FOR EACH GROUP



VARIOUS RESTAURANT
OPTIONS AVAILABLE



PICNIC AREA
IN A WOODED PARK



FREE PARKING FOR CARS
AND BUSES

RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE DORDOGNE VALLEY, JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM ROCAMADOUR, THE GOUFFRE DE PADIRAC IS FRANCE'S MOST VISITED NATURAL SUBTERRANEAN HERITAGE SITE.



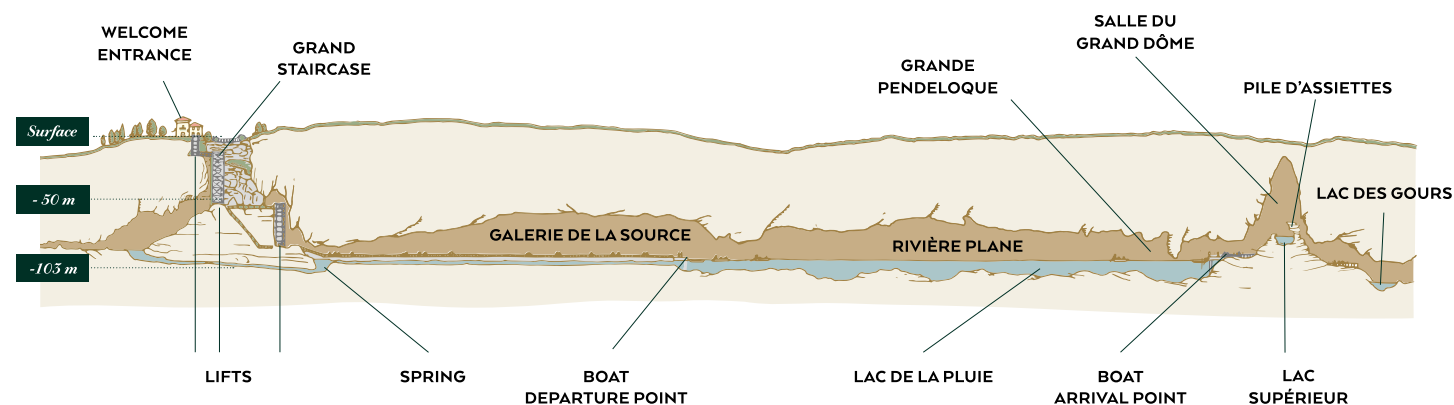
A WELL... OR RATHER A CHASM...

THIS INCREDIBLE NATURAL CAVE 33 M IN DIAMETER AND 75 M DEEP STARTS TO TAKE SHAPE BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES.

You begin your exploration by going down in a lift or on foot, **103 m below the Earth's surface**. Then you pass through a series of subterranean galleries until you reach the pier, from where you set off in a barge.

Suddenly, the river opens up into the **Lac de la Pluie** (Rain Lake), above which you will see the majestic and impressive **Grande Pendeloque** (Great Pendant), a **60 m high stalactite**.

You then leave the boat and continue towards the **Lac des Gours** and the incredible **Grand Dôme chamber**, with its **94 m high vault** which harbours a plethora of geological marvels that have been fashioned by nature over millions of years.



LET'S EXPERIENCE
“ THE INCREDIBLE ”
SUBTERRANEAN
ADVENTURE



THE REALITY
“**EXCEEDED WHAT
MY IMAGINATION**”
HAD DREAMED...*

*Édouard-Alfred Martel, 1st explorer of the Gouffre de Padirac



THE HISTORY OF THE GOUFFRE DE PADIRAC: A FEW DATES

1889

09-10 JULY

Édouard-Alfred Martel, equipped with heavy rope ladders and candles, **first enters the Gouffre de Padirac**, at the time referred to as the "Devil's hole".

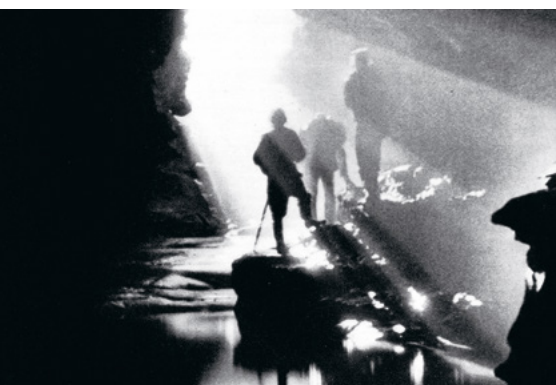
1898

1ST NOVEMBER

After nearly 10 years of **colossal construction work**, Gouffre de Padirac welcomes **its first visitors**.

1899

The Gouffre de Padirac is visited by **more than 6000 people** over the whole year.



WHEN ÉDOUARD-ALFRED MARTEL MADE HIS WAY INTO **ONE OF THE MOST MYSTERIOUS CAVES** EVER EXPLORED, HE QUICKLY WANTED AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO KNOW ABOUT WHAT HE HAD DISCOVERED.

HE THEN PARTNERED WITH **GEORGE BEAMISH**, A DESCENDANT OF THE **IRISH FAMILY** OF BREWERS OF THE SAME NAME, TO FINANCE THE PROJECT. LONG MONTHS OF CONSTRUCTION WORK FOLLOWED UNTIL EVENTUALLY **IN 1898**, THE FIRST VISITORS MADE THEIR WAY DOWN INTO THE GOUFFRE DE PADIRAC.



1901

Les galeries souterraines sont **électrifiées**: une véritable **prouesse** tant **technologique** qu'**acrobatique**!

1936

Paid holiday is introduced and the **French railway** network enjoys rapid development: people are queueing up to visit **Rocamadour** and the **Gouffre de Padirac**.

INTER— GENERATIONAL COMMITMENT

INVOLVING:

3 935

VISITORS IN 1900

103 789

VISITORS IN 1947

503 000

VISITORS IN 2019

IN 2005, **LÆTITIA DE MÉNIBUS-GRAVIER**, GREAT, GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER OF GEORGE BEAMISH, TOOK OVER MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE, HERALDING A TURNING POINT IN ITS HISTORY. HER AIM WAS TO **RESTORE THE IMAGE AND THE APPEAL OF THE CAVES** – AN AIM THAT SHE SET ABOUT FULFILLING WITH BOUNDLESS ENERGY.

Spearheaded by her, the welcoming services were redesigned to provide an improved visitor experience.

The operating company now provides visitors with a programme of **cultural and artistic events** (editorial projects, photography exhibitions, recitals, events visits, etc.). **It is still committed** to providing everyone with access to France's leading natural underground heritage site. **This involves bringing science** and culture to as many people as possible, **providing educational tools**, digitising its archive so that everybody can access it via the Padirac **media library** and **supporting charities**.

Lætitia de Ménibus-Gravier constantly strives to **showcase the cultural heritage** of this **natural underground monument** and recently embarked on a project to overhaul and re-landscape the architecture of the reception facilities at the Gouffre de Padirac site, which – in 2019 – **celebrated the 130th anniversary of its discovery**.



2005

The **archive collections** are **showcased** and the cycle of **cultural events** starts.

1939

7 MAY

The “**New Padirac**” is opened in the presence of France's Minister for Public Works. This outstanding site and its facilities which are **incredibly modern** for the time get **international press coverage**.

VISITING THE GOUFFRE DE PADIRAC MAKES FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY. MANY VISITORS WANT TO PROLONG EXPERIENCE BY HAVING LUNCH AT THE SITE.

ENJOY **GOURMET DISHES** FEATURING **REGIONAL SPECIALITIES** AT THE AUBERGE DU GOUFFRE, JUST **A FEW METRES** FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVES.

A whole menu
just to treat
your taste buds!

Regional family cuisine: featuring **duck foie gras**, **Quercy farmhouse lamb**, artisan sausage, **Lot or Rocamadour salad** and a range of vegetarian dishes...

Menus to suit **your mood** and your **schedule**, breakfast menus, lunch baskets or à la carte dishes to be enjoyed in a friendly setting...

UP TO
120
PEOPLE INDOORS

UP TO
80
PEOPLE ON THE TERRACE
(DEPENDING ON THE SEASON)

OPEN
7
DAYS A WEEK



**BOUTIQUE / BOOKSHOP
DELICATESSEN**

TO EXTEND THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE,
THE BOUTIQUE/BOOKSTORE HAS A **WIDE SELECTION**
OF GOUFFRE DE PADIRAC-THEMED BOOKS, SOUVENIRS
AND GIFTS. THE DELICATESSEN OFFERS A WIDE CHOICE
OF **REGIONAL PRODUCTS** TO TASTE.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.



THE DORDOGNE VALLEY: LANDSCAPE OF SURPRISES

FROM THE ARID PLATEAUS OF THE LIMESTONE CAUSSES TO THE WOODED HILLS OF THE XAINTRIE, **THE DORDOGNE VALLEY** HAS SOMETHING FOR YOU – WHATEVER YOU ARE IN THE MOOD FOR: REMARKABLE LANDSCAPES, EXCEPTIONAL **HISTORICAL HERITAGE** SITES, **TRADITIONAL GOURMET EXPERIENCES**, **A WHOLE RANGE OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**, **FESTIVALS**, ETC.

PROFESSIONALS CAN GET SUPPORT IN ORGANISING THEIR TOURS OF THE DORDOGNE VALLEY, SHOULD THEY NEED IT.

+ 33 (0)5 65 33 22 03
sejour@vallee-dordogne.com

GUIDED TOURS, DISCOVERY ITINERARIES AND IDEAS FOR ROUTES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE TOURIST OFFICE.

www.vallee-dordogne.com



AN IDYLIC SETTING

The Dordogne Valley is brimming with remarkable landscapes on either side of its **picturesque roads**, together with **streams** and **hiking trails**, such as Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle. An idyllic setting that's perfect for numerous **outdoor leisure activities**, such as canoeing, river bathing and strolling.



HISTORICAL HERITAGE

History has been happening here for thousands of years. The very first humans left their footprints here, along with magnificent examples of cave **paintings** and **prehistoric drawings**.

An **exceptional heritage** has taken shape over the centuries, made up of castles, churches, buildings, mediaeval villages, etc. Six of France's **most beautiful villages** are located **on the banks of the river** – Autoire, Carennac, Loubressac, Turenne, Collonges-la-Rouge and Curemonte –, close to the Gouffre de Padirac, the sacred site of Rocamadour and the Causses du Quercy Natural Park.

GASTRONOMY & REGIONAL PRODUCTS

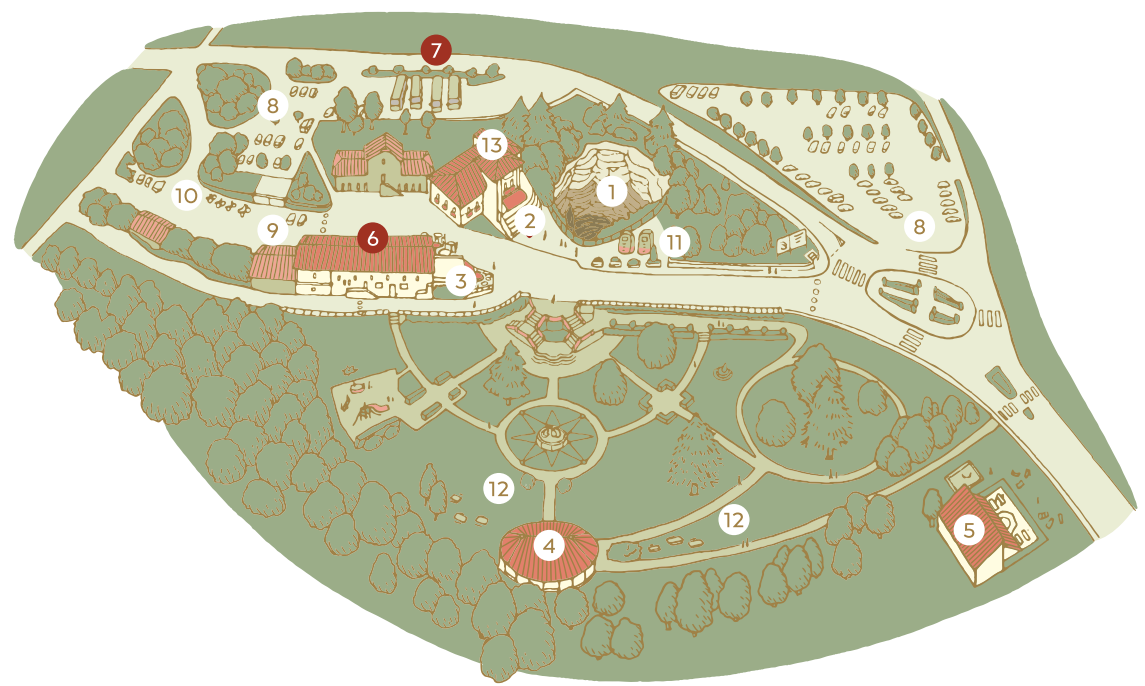
Eating here is considered an art, and dishes are both **generous and gourmet** in nature. Farmers, producers and chefs all contribute fully to the **Dordogne Valley's reputation**. The villages come to life and are highly colourful on market days. The intimacy of hosts' tables, the authenticity of farmhouse inns or the secrets of starred restaurants, **pleasure goes hand-in-hand** with the **flavour of strawberries**, Quercy Mellon, Périgord nuts, cep mushrooms, truffles, foie gras, confits, Quercy farmhouse lamb, Rocamadour goat's cheese with Glanes wine or a glass of Amadour..



LYRICAL, JAZZ & THEATRE ARTS

As you visit the region, you'll also get the opportunity to enjoy numerous festivals – **truly special artistic events** which are put on in outstanding venues. The best-known include the Rocamadour Festival, Souillac en Jazz, the Saint-Céré Opera Festival and the Théâtrales de Collonges-la-Rouge.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



- 1 **GOUFFRE DE PADIRAC**

2 ENTRANCE PAVILION

3 AUBERGE DU GOUFFRE

4 BUVETTE DU GOUFFRE

5 DELICATESSEN
- 6 **GROUP WELCOME OFFICE**

7 **COACH PARK**

8 CAR PARK

9 DISABLE CAR PARK

10 TWO-WHEELED VEHICLE PARKING (BICYCLES, MOTORCYCLES)
- 11 AUTOMATIC TICKET MACHINE

12 PICNIC AREAS

13 BOUTIQUE BOOKSHOP TOILETS

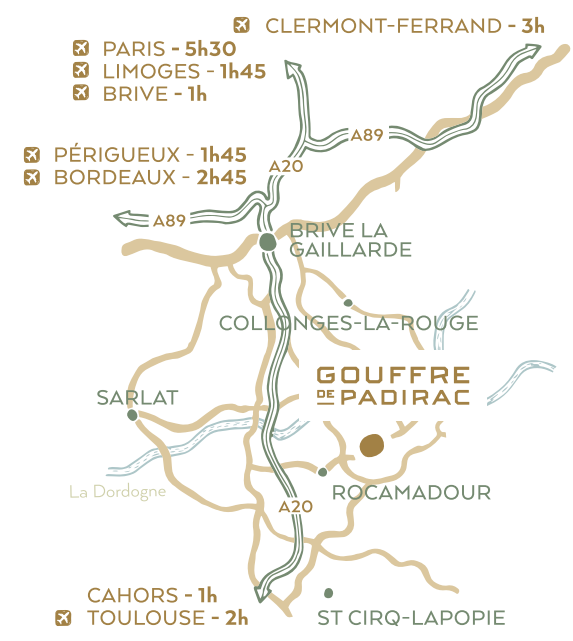


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