

Périgueux, capital city of the Périgord... more than 2,000 years of history

Located at the heart of the county, Périgueux is a cultural and tourist must-see which has been a pioneer as a City of Art and History in the Aquitaine region since 1987. It offers visitors an environment combining a Gallo Roman, medieval-Renaissance, modern and contemporary heritage with its 54 listed historical sites.



The Roman era is enhanced by the Vesunna site and museum daringly designed by Jean Nouvel. It is a unique concept in Europe where Périgueux's Gallo Roman origins are displayed on the very remains of an opulent Roman villa (domus) rich with the most important archeological collections in Aquitaine. In the surrounding park can be seen the Vesunna tower, another prestigious vestige dedicated to a Celtic goddess. The site is scheduled to be redeveloped to « stage » the historical tower so that visitors will be able to enter into its history. The MAAP, Périgord Art and Archeology Museum was the first one to open in the area in the nineteenth century. It is home to collections that take you back to the birth of human kind. It offers visitors an unusual journey into the world of artistic creation from Périgord to China and from Africa to Oceania.



The St Front Cathedral, an iconic architectural masterpiece has been a World Heritage site since 1998 as an important stop along St James Santiago pilgrimage route. A guided tour on the rooftops, open to the public since Summer 2019, offers visitors a bird's eye view over the town.



Due to its central geographical location, Périgueux is the perfect place from where to tour the whole of the Dordogne county. Labelled as a tourist destination, Périgueux is deeply rooted in its past while firmly looking ahead. The many events on offer all year long testify to its vitality thanks to a rich and diversified program such as the international mime festival (Mimos festival), Sinfonia baroque music festival, the Cook Book Fair, Peri'Meuh , the urban agricultural fair, the History Fair, the night torch-lit city walks .



Périgueux has, since the Middle Ages, been reputed as a paradise for gourmet food lovers with its excellent food and extraordinary local savours and flavours . The « Périgueux pâté » of which the recipe has evolved over time is today a mix of fine pork stuffing, foie gras with cooked truffles. The speciality now has its own annual competition organized by the Guild of Master Bakers to promote and enhance the Master Chefs' savoir- faire. Another speciality not to be missed is the « Périgueux sauce » made of veal stock and truffle juice. The famous liqueur La Gauloise created in Périgueux in 1783, winner of the 1889 Paris World Fair is today used to make different cocktails. The ancestral Périgueux street markets with their multicolored stalls in every square tempt visitors with the treasures of local produce. From November to March, there is also the « Gras » market with its foie gras, fatted poultry and truffles. The Summer « nuits gourmandes » (night food markets) in Périgueux's Old Historical Town are not to be missed every Wednesday evening in July and August. In a festive and musical atmosphere, it is very pleasant to walk about and meet more than a hundred local producers, shop keepers and craftsmen selling regional and hand-made products. Visitors can then sit and eat together in the middle of street shows, workshops and demonstrations organized by local associations.



Craftsmen share their passion for their authentic know-how by opening their workshop doors to passers-by.



2020 dates and news

6th edition of the « Fête de l'Histoire »

The first ever History Festival in France took place in Périgueux, the capital of the Périgord from 17th to 20th June 2015 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the label Ville et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire created in 1985. It was placed under the aegis of Europe in partnership with Bologna and Parma Universities, guests of honour. For 3 days, the town becomes a cabinet of heritage wonders thus illustrating its main historical periods. Conferences, art walks, concerts and shows in different cultural and historical venues involve the younger audience and local population. History prevails in the city.

The sixth edition will take place from 11th to 13th June 2020 with the theme « Greening the town and urban trends »

From 11th to 13th June 2020

38th edition of Mimos International Festival of Mime and Gestural Arts

Since 1983, the Mimos Festival has been committed to enhancing the incredible scope of body movement through mime, gestural arts performance, dance, objects theatre, puppets ...

For a week, performers invade the town to share a wide range of artistic expression in both the official (IN) and fringe (OFF) programs, a unique moment of mime and gestural performance.

From July 29th to August 2nd 2020

30th edition of « Sinfonia Festival in Périgord », festival of Baroque music

Since 1990, Sinfonia Festival has been a highlight of Baroque music with more than 25 concerts and encounters over a week in more than 10 venues (churches, abbeys, parks and gardens). Sinfonia is an invitation to rediscover many musical masterpieces and to explore lesser interpreted repertoires played by world-renowned musicians.

Late August 2020

16th edition of the international Cookbook Fair in Périgueux

Every other year, for the last 30 years, the Cookbook Fair has combined with passion words with fine food. As France's leading literary event dedicated to gastronomy, it is a must for all book and gourmet connoisseurs. This popular event, promoting all the trends in food, its production and culinary arts, brings together the economic stakeholders of the gastronomy world (chefs, writers, publishers, oenologists, producers, distributors, agricultural communities) to the great satisfaction of professionals and general public alike.

From 23rd to 25th November 2020