

LIFE

rivière
DORDOGNE



OPEN STUDY TOUR

From 28th to 30th September 2026

Dordogne River Valley



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Draft programme

Sunday, 27th September - Arrival

Afternoon	Arrival to Sarlat
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Monday, 28th September - Day 1

8.30 am	Bus departure to Saint-Chamassy
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Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants' introduction • Presentation of the LIFE Dordogne River Programme • Discussion
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Lunch : picnic on site

Afternoon	<p>Guided tour of the former gravel pit of Maison-Neuve (restored in 2024)</p> <p><i>Ecological restoration of alluvial habitats of the Dordogne River over a 22-hectare area consisting of an oxbow lake, a flood channel, and a managed grassland.</i></p> <p>KEY WORDS <i>Agriculture Property Tourism & cycling path Reconcile nature preservation and activities Education</i></p>
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Dinner & Night guided tour of Sarlat



Former gravel pit of Maison-Neuve during restoration – August, 2024



Former gravel pit of Maison-Neuve after restoration – June, 2025

Tuesday, 29th September - Day 2

8.00 am

Bus departure to Floirac

Morning

Guided tour of the Sous-Castel riprap in Floirac

Removal of 640 metres of riprap installed in the 1980s to protect land from bank erosion.

KEY WORDS

Social acceptance of erosion | Incision caused by riprap | Riprap removal works | Sensitive natural areas (controlled land ownership, extended pre-emption zone to manage the river mobility corridor) | Swimming & river access

Lunch : picnic on site

Afternoon

Guided tour of the oxbows in Pontou (restored in 2025)

Ecological restoration of secondary channels of the Dordogne River over an area of 10 hectares.

KEY WORDS

Sediment replenishment | Fishing and fish population monitoring | Ecosystem services (drinking water supply, irrigation) | Impacts of active incision | Disappearance of riffles

Dinner & Interactive debriefing session



Removal of a riprap in Floirac – February, 2025



Oxbows in Pontou after restoration – October, 2025

Wednesday, 30th September - Day 3

Morning

Debriefing session

Lunch : picnic on site

Optional canoeing guided tour of the former gravel pits of Gaule (restored in 2022) and Veyrignac (restored in 2015)

Gaule: Ecological restoration of alluvial environments on the Dordogne River over an area of 6 hectares involving the opening of two secondary channels (braided streams), the restoration of an oxbow lake (backwater), and the creation of a flood channel.

KEY WORDS

Social Acceptance (managing disturbed land uses and ingrained habits) | Restoration Objectives & Target Habitats (botanical monitoring, passive vs. active regeneration and natural rewilding) | Protected Species (avoidance strategies and the mitigation hierarchy)

Afternoon

Veyrignac : Ecological restoration of alluvial environments on the Dordogne River over an area of 16 hectares dedicated to natural rewilding (passive restoration).

KEY WORDS

Site History & Land Tenure (historical background and land ownership) | Management through removal of site access and 10 years of "free evolution" (natural rewilding) | Invasive Alien Species and the balance with native habitats



Former gravel pit of Gaule after restoration – July, 2025



Former gravel pit of Veyrignac, 10 years after restoration – 2025

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This open study tour is organized by



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