

# MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2013

## North Dordogne

As far as historical parks are concerned La Roque St Christophe is surely the oldest we have seen.

Clinging to an imposing cliff face and towering some 100m above the Vezere River, this series of five terraces carved naturally into rock has been inhabited by man from 55,000 BC. We spent a couple of hours here and were enthralled. The working models of lifting devices and other exhibits added realism to the whole experience.

The most interesting aspect though, was seeing how the residents had carved the rock face to create all their required conveniences. Niches, drainage holes, vents, post holes, stairs and benches were but a few. We then viewed the extensive rock complex from afar as we cycled along the river bank.

It was education and sightseeing rolled into one.

Next it was a look inside one of France's famous chateaus - Hautefort.

Located on the site of a former Roman fortification, the medieval fortress was progressively transformed during the 17th Century into an imposing stately home.

We parked the van below and walked up the hill to look around the castle's opulent interior. The views from the upper floor down to the English style formal gardens were glorious. The box style patterns and the colours of the plants were both intricate and beautiful.

We decided to head west to Brantome. It proved to be a very enjoyable one hour cross country trip on minor roads. The roads were wide enough and the scenery was superb - rolling hills with great little villages in between.

A most enjoyable day.



**FAT GEESE** We wondered why there were hundreds of geese in a farm paddock. We read later about the French practice of force feeding these animals to make them rich with fat. Their fat livers are considered a delicacy.



**HAPPY FACE** We did a double take when we saw this statue in the chateau. Every statue we have ever seen sports a serious look. This one has a great smile. Very unusual.



# PHOTOS



