



Founded in 1860, SNB is one of France's oldest and most distinguished rowing clubs.

Some of their members move very fast—so keep to the right, and allow them past if they're catching up! **SNB have excellent facilities at their boathouse, and are very welcoming to visitors. But you should brush up your rowing vocab before turning up there. There's a Useful Words list on the website..**

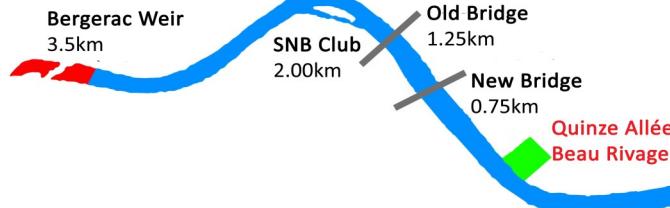
A Rower's Guide to The River Dordogne at Bergerac

If you row mostly on big, busy rivers like the Thames in London, you'll find a lot to like on the Dordogne at Bergerac. With over 14 km of good navigable water, a benign climate, and very little river traffic, this is a superb training environment. If you're new to the area, though, there are certain things you should know - including some important safety, regulatory and etiquette matters - before launching out. Here are the main points.



The Old Bridge is a Bergerac landmark. With the water at summer levels, as shown, it's no obstacle, but when the water is higher in the spring, the current in the arches can be tricky for beginners.

Opened in 1884, the **Pont des Gilets** was the work of Gustave Eiffel, so is sometimes referred to as the Eiffel Bridge. Originally a rail crossing, it is now used for cycle and light road traffic.



Aside from other rowers and the occasional skiff, the only traffic you're likely to see are the **Gabares**—traditional freight craft made redundant by the railway, and now used for popular tourist trips.

The **Silver Ball** marks the power line which crosses the river at the bottom of the garden at Quinze Allée Beau Rivage, and is thus used as Point Zero for the distances shown on the river map.



Watch out for **obstacles** at the 5km mark. Go slow here, avoiding the shallows near the north bank. A bit further upstream, be aware of the **Creyssse Rock** (above) which hides like a hippo when the water's high.

The Tuilières dam is as far as you can go upstream. Originally constructed in 1908, this is now a state-of-the art hydro plant from which EDF provides much of the region with virtuous carbon-free power.