



Trip description

Along the Loire valley from Blois to Angers - sportive

Cycling holidays along the Loire valley from Blois to Angers passing by Chambord, Chaumont-sur-Loire, Amboise, Chenonceau, Azay-le-Rideau, Chinon, Fontevraud and Saumur



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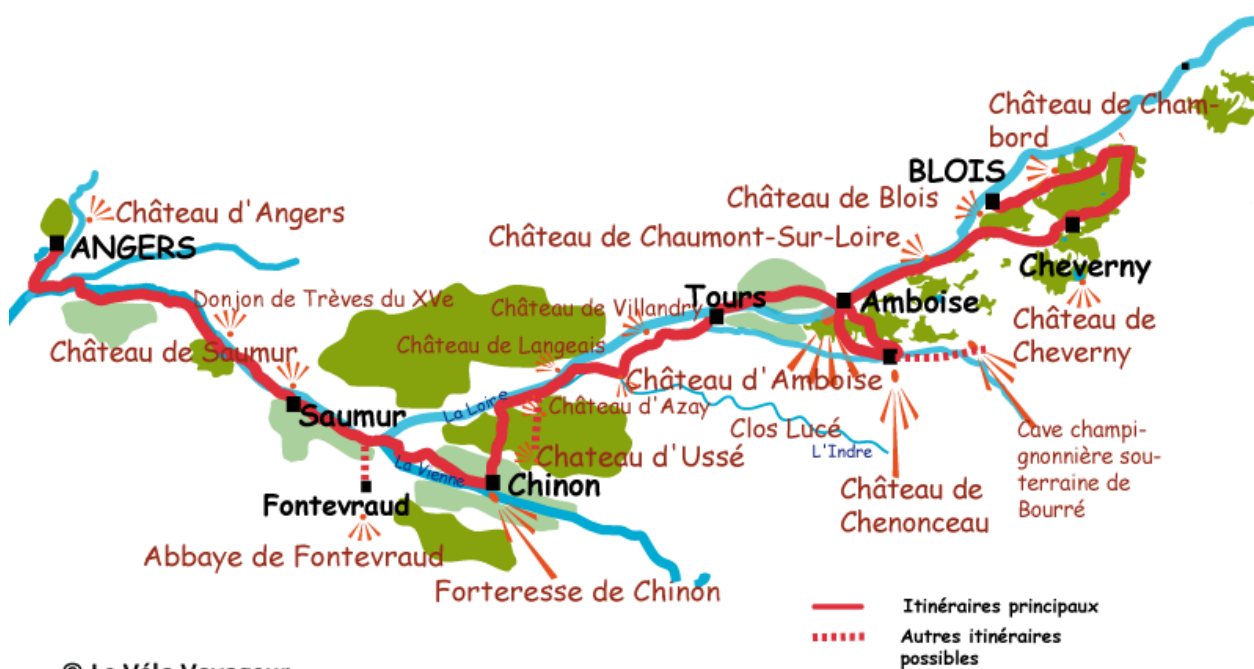
Centre-Val de Loire

Destination	France
Location	Vallée de la Loire
Duration	8 days
Difficulty Level	Moderate
Validity	From april to november
Minimum age	1 year
Reference	L0805

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



Discover the secrets of the Loire Valley from Blois to Angers. On bike paths and small country roads you ride pass the most prestigious Renaissance castles of the Loire such as Chambord, Chaumont-sur-Loire, Chenonceau, Villandry, Azay-le-Rideau or Ussé, the castle which inspired the fairytale Sleeping Beauty. But this part of the Loire Valley also nests the abbey of Fontevraud and beautiful medieval castles and fortresses like Langeais, Chinon or Angers, which houses the largest medieval tapestry. You will discover the changing colors of the Loire Valley and the traditional boats (toutes) swinging between sandbanks. The Loire Valley is worldwide known for its vineyards of Chinon and Saumur.

Day 1

Arrival in Blois

Start your tour by exploring Blois, with its cobblestone streets and meandering walkways. Cross the long stone bridge in the center of town for great views. Your highlight will be visiting Blois Castle, with intricate architectural details and manicured gardens

Day 2

Blois - castle of Chambord - Cheverny

Bike
40/68km

2 route options

Enter chateau de Chambord's magnificent forest and take a peek at the sculpted salamanders engraved on the walls of Loire's most extravagant castle. Enjoy the shade of the hundred years old trees, then ride along the Cosson creek to the "château de Cheverny". This should bring up some memories, if you ever read Tintin: it was the inspiration for Moulinsart castle. In Chambord forest, you can make a detour through Neuvy to discover the Sologne country land and its many ponds.

Day 3

Cheverny - Amboise

Bike
50/60km

2 route options

Stroll inside the château de Beauregard with its gallery of 327 portraits of famous European leaders that forged history between the 14th and the 17th century. Or choose to ride through vineyards before arriving in front of the drawbridge of Fougères-sur-Bièvre stronghold. Follow the toutes (traditional boats) along the Loire to Chaumont-sur-Loire. This place is famous for its fairy-tale castle but also for its International Garden Festival which displays talented creations. Ride directly to the beautiful city of Amboise and let the medieval atmosphere of this city seduce you. Discover the architecture of the "château d'Amboise", which is iconic of the transition period from Gothic and Renaissance architecture.

Day 4

Amboise - Tours passing the castle of Chenonceau

Bike
34/73km

Begin your day with an loop to the castle of Chenonceau. Through the forest and along the river's banks you reach one of the most iconic châteaux de la Loire, the "chateau de Chenonceau" overlooking the Cher river. To reach Tours old town and its half-timbered houses, you ride the Vouvray wine route.

Day 5

Tours - Chinon

Bike

You wind on the cycling path along the Loire to leave Tours and reach the château de Villandry with its beautiful French gardens. Enjoy the banks of the Loire Valley before riding up through forests towards the château d'Azay-le-Rideau. Keep on cycling on «

66km

Loire à vélo » and ride on the dike to get to the château d'Ussé which inspired the Sleeping Beauty fairy tale. You enter into Chinon overlooking the old town. Enjoy the labyrinth of medieval narrow streets when you ride down the Vienne River.

Day 6

Chinon - Saumur

Bike
35/48km

2 route options

You continue to ride along the Vienne River and enjoy the view on the wild Loire banks. You arrive in the gorgeous small village of Candes-Saint-Martin built with freestone. You can stop to admire the XIIth century foundation church. Keep on to Montsoreau which is one of the "Loveliest Villages in France" built around its castle. From there, you have the option to keep on the hills to Fontevraud which is worth visiting for its magnificent abbey which shelters the tombs of Richard the Lionheart and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Otherwise ride straight to Saumur. On your way you admire the cave house villages and stop to taste Saumur wines in the numerous wine cellars. Discover Saumur and its castle with impressive dungeons at the end of this idyllic ride.

Day 7

Saumur - Angers

Bike
61km

You exit Saumur and ride along peacefully the Loire through peaceful villages with a rich heritage. Do not miss the medieval churches in the villages on your way. In Treves, you can see the famous 30m high tower, the last remnant of a fortress built in the 15th century! Before reaching Gennes, ride through a forest and along a pond, which offers one of the most beautiful areas of the Loire to picnic and relax. Then, you cross the Loire and the Loiret in Ponts-de-Cé and ride down the Loire to the confluence of the Maine. Finally, Angers appears with its castle, its fortress and its lively streets.

Day 8

Départure from Angers

You discover the living city of Angers before going back.

The regional train takes you back to your starting point or you can extend your stay if you wish.

Accommodation

Category A

You'll enjoy staying in these clean and cozy 2-Star hotels that give you a pleasant rest after your day of biking. Breakfast is included when you spend the night in these friendly and family-run hotels.





** Example of the type of accommodation*

Category B

You'll get a good night's sleep when you stay in these 3-Star hotels or Bed and Breakfasts. All properties have been selected for their cleanliness, style and friendliness of the staff. A hearty breakfast is included!



** Example of the type of accommodation*

Category C

You'll have a wider selection of accommodations when you choosing this 4-Star category. Some nights you'll stay in small castle or quaints hotels, and other times you might be in a charming Bed and Breakfast. Enjoy the "vie de chateau" atmosphere in an exceptional environment. Properties are selected for their high standards and impeccable service. Don't forget...breakfast is included!



** Example of the type of accommodation*

Practical information

To get to departure point:

By plane: flight to Paris or Tours and then train to Blois.

By train: inter-regional trains from Paris-Austerlitz station (direct or 8min connection in Orléans). The duration of the trip is from 1h20 to 2h00. Or TGV (fast trains) from Paris Montparnasse and connection in Saint-Pierre-des-Corps to take a regional train to Blois. The duration of the trip is about 2h00. To plan your trip, www.raileurope.com.

Parking

If you drive to Blois, you can park your car in a secured car park located in the city center, close to your accommodation and the train station. The daily rate is 5,5€ and decreases depending on the duration. The location and contact details of the car park will be given in your travel documents.

To get back to starting point:

Regional trains take you back to your starting point if you wish. They are accessible without booking in advance and bicycles are free. You have to buy your ticket on spot (full rate 27.20€/adult). There are several trains per day. You will find the timetable in your travel documents.

We can also organise a transfer in a private vehicle on demand.

Meeting time:

The first day is an arrival day without cycling. You arrive whenever you want depending on from where you come. Please note that rooms are usually available in the middle of the afternoon depending on your accommodation. We thank you to advise us if you plan to arrive late.

Price description

Category A

799 €/pers

Double room fare

7 nights in ** hotels

7 breakfasts

6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (saddled bags, locks, toolkit)

the luggage transport from one lodging to the other

a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes

a visit and wine tasting in Vouvray

a visit of a chocolate factory

the return of the bikes

local visitors' taxes

sending charge of the travel documents in France

24h/24 hotline

High season extra (*)

40 €/pers

Half-board

27 €/dinner

Extra for a single room

39€/night/pers

Extra night in Blois

50 €/pers

Extra night in Angers

45 €/pers

Category B

919 €/pers

Double room fare

7 nights in ** or *** hotels or bed & breakfasts

7 breakfasts

6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (packs, helmets, locks...)

the luggage transport from one lodging to the other

a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes

a visit and wine tasting in Vouvray

a visit of a chocolate factory

the return of the bikes

local visitors' taxes

sending charge of the travel documents in France

24h/24 hotline

High season extra (*)

50 €/pers

Half-board

29 €/dinner

Extra for a single room

52 €/night/pers

Extra night in Blois

55 €/pers

Extra night in Angers

65 €/pers

Category C

Double room fare

1249 €/pers

7 nights in ***/**** hotels or bed & breakfasts
7 breakfasts
6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (packs, helmets, locks...)
the luggage transport from one lodging to the other
a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes
a visit and wine tasting in Vouvray
a visit of a chocolate factory
the return of the bikes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
24h/24 hotline

High season extra (*)	60 €/pers
Half-board	33 €/dinner
Extra for a single room	83 €/night/pers
Extra night in Blois	80 €/pers
Extra night in Angers	75 €/pers

Options

Extra for the rental of an electric bike (6 days)	85 €/pers
Discount if you ride your own bicycle	-100 €/pers

(*) High season :

- from 10.04 to 13.04.2020
- from 27.04 to 02.06.2020
- from 04.07 to 30.08.2020

Children discount (in the same room as 2 full rate participants)

- 0-4 year : -70%
- 5-11 year : -50%
- 12-17 year : -30%

The package doesn't include:

the journey to the tour location
the drinks
the meals which are not included
the entrance fee to sites
insurances (optional)

For more information or booking : www.levelovoyageur.com
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