



Trip description

Cycling the Loire Valley: from the Anjou area to the sea

Ride the last leg of the Loire Valley from Saumur to Saint-Brevin. The landscapes of the Loire river disappear gradually to leave place to dunes and sand beaches.

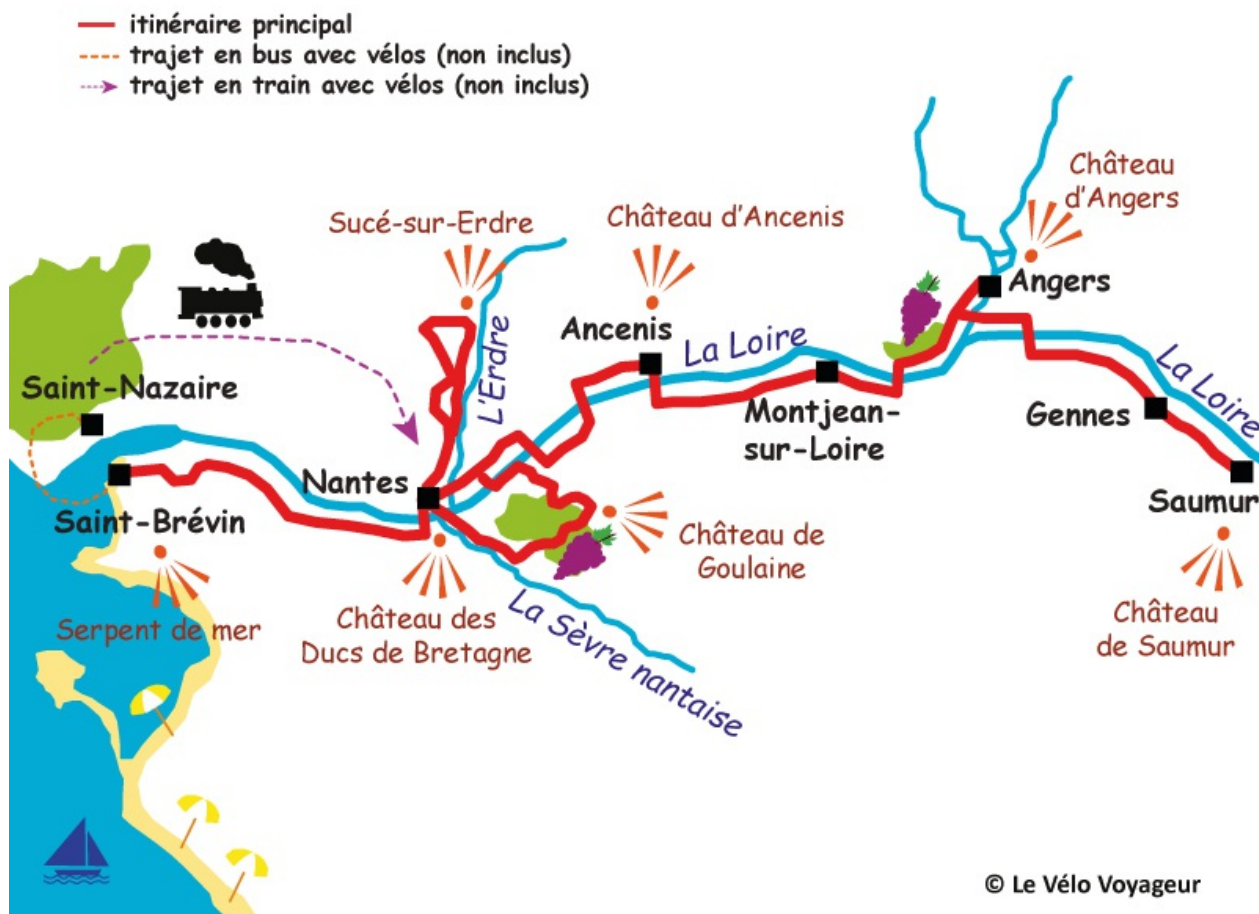


Destination	France
Location	Vallée de la Loire
Duration	8 days
Difficulty Level	Easy
Validity	From Avril to November
Minimum age	1 year
Reference	L0806

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



Discover the last leg of the Loire Valley from Saumur to Saint-Brévin. You'll enjoy the changing colors of the Loire Valley, the vineyards around Saumur and the castle of Angers and its magnificent medieval tapestry, the best well-preserved in Europe.

During your trip, you'll ride along the Loire islands up to Montjean-sur-Loire, Saint-Florent-le-Viel and its beautiful abbey, Ancenis and its castle or Oudon and its dungeon. Then you'll reach Nantes, its "Ducs de Bretagne" castle, its cathedral and its amazing machines. You'll have the opportunity to discover the surroundings biking along the Erdre, the Sèvre nantaise or decide to see the ocean at Saint-Brévin. With this last option, you'll ride along the Loire river up to the estuary to the seaside resort.

This varied tour takes you from the heart of the Anjou countryside to the breeze of the ocean. Quite a change!!

Day 1

Arrival in Saumur

Discover the charming old town of Saumur and its magnificent castle crowning the city. Saumur is not only the capitale of the equestrian art but also a gastronomy center surrounded by a rich wine area.

Day 2

Saumur - Gennes

Bike
19km

This journey gives you the opportunity to fully enjoy the beauty of the Loire valley. You leave Saumur and follow the Loire on the bike path "Loire à vélo", along which you will discover many beautiful little villages with their medieval churches.

In Trèves you stop for a visit of the 15th century-old dungeon. Shortly before reaching Gennes your path will lead you through a magnificent forest, along a beautiful pond. It's the perfect place to picnic!

Day 3

Gennes - Angers

Bike
50km

You continue to enjoy the charms of the Loire valley. You ride along the small villages of the Loire and enjoy the many small cafés to relax in the shade of the willows. 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 4

Angers - Montjean-sur-Loire

Bike
39km

Discover the beautiful city of Angers, its castle and its busy streets. You'll leave the city riding along the Maine river, along the lake and across the woods until the confluence with the Loire river. Then, the itinerary leaves the river taking you to the hillside of the prestigious vineyards of Savennières.

You reach the southside of the river crossing the Chalonnes' island, one of the largest in the Loire river. Your daytrip ends in the lovely village of Montjean-sur-Loire. Just before the village, you ride by the large headframe of an old coal mine and the limekilns, witnesses of the mining history.

Day 5

Montjean-sur-Loire - Ancenis

Bike
29km

You leave Montjean-sur-Loire riding on the elevation along the Loire river. Discover the charming village of Saint-Florent-le-Viel, birthplace of the writer Julien Gracq. The town with its magnificent XVIIth century abbey atop the Mont Glone is classified « Petite Cité de Caractère ». From the abbey, you'll embrace a spectacular panorama over the Loire valley.

Then, you keep on riding on small country roads. Crossing again the Loire river you enter Ancenis, former Bretagne harbour admiring the medieval castle and its moats.

Day 6

Ancenis - Nantes

Bike
39km

Start the day reaching the lovely town of Oudon and its impressive dungeon guarding the city. You get to the left bank of the river to Champtoceaux, old medieval fortress. Riding along the river and its islands, you'll cross the first lamb's lettuce fields near Nantes.

Eventually, a nice shady cycle path will take you to the Dukes' city. Pass by the former LU biscuit factory, nowadays cultural and artistic center. Your itinerary ends in front of the beautiful Ducs de Bretagne castle, in the historical center of Nantes.

Day 7

Suggested day trip : along the Erdre

Bike
41km

Not possible with trailer bike or bike trailer

Suggested day trip : to Saint-Brévin on the seashore

Bike
71km

Return : bus + train (not included)

You leave the vibrant city to found the quietness of the riverbank. The Erdre was named by the king François Ier "the most beautiful river in France". When riding, through woods and marsh, appreciate the diversity of wildlife and flora. Along your tour, you'll catch sight of beautiful mansions and small castles which have been built along the river by rich shipowners during the XIXth century. The lovely town of Sucé-sur-Erdre will be the ideal place for a stop in its harbour.

This ride takes you to the Atlantic ocean, last leg of the Loire Valley! The contemporary art follows you all the way with different creations. Leave Nantes through the former shipyards and get to the south riverbank. This itinerary is the same as the well-known Vélodyssée and run along the quiet and lovely Martinière canal.

You are not very far from Nantes but you already can feel the ocean breeze, the very impressive Saint Nazaire bridge takes shape far off and the estuary appears, grand. You enter Saint-Brévin, its pine-tree lined streets, its sand beaches and its surprising sea snake. Enjoy the seashore resort atmosphere before crossing the Saint Nazaire bridge by bus to take your train back to Nantes.

Day 8

Departure from Nantes

After a nice breakfast, enjoy furthermore the gorgeous city of Nantes before leaving.

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

Practical information

To get to departure point:

By plane: flight to Nantes or Tours, then train to Saumur.

By train: TGV (fast trains) from Paris Montparnasse and connection in Saint-Pierre-des-Corps or Angers to take a regional train to Saumur. The duration of the trip varies from 2h00 to 2h30. To plan your trip, www.raileurope.com.

Parking

If you drive to Saumur, you can park your car for free in an open car park located in the city center. The location and contact details of the car park will be given in your travel documents.

To get back to starting point (Nantes-Saumur) :

Regional trains take you back to your starting point from Nantes if you wish (about 1h20). They are accessible without booking in advance and bicycles are free. You have to buy your ticket on spot (full rate 23€/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

Price from July 1 to August 21. From April 1 to June 30 and from August 22 to October 22 a supplement applies

Category A

Double room fare

849 €/pers

7 nights in ** hotels

7 breakfasts
6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (saddles, bags, locks, toolkit)
the luggage transport from one lodging to the other
a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes
the return of the bikes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
24h/24 hotline

Off-season 04/06 - 30/06 and 21/08 - 11/09	50 €/pers
Off-season 01/04 - 03/06 and 12/09 - 22/10	180 €/pers
Half-board	on demand
Extra for a single room	42 €/night
Extra night in Saumur	60 €/pers
Extra night in Nantes	75 €/pers

Category B Double room fare	959 €/pers
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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
the return of the bikes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
24h/24 hotline

Off-season 04/06 - 30/06 and 21/08 - 11/09	20 €/pers
Off-season 01/04 - 03/06 and 12/09 - 22/10	130 €/pers
Half-board	on demand
Extra for a single room	56 €/night
Extra night in Saumur	105 €/pers
Extra night in Nantes	85 €/pers

Options

Extra for the rental of an electric bike (6 days)	85 €/pers
Discount if you ride your own bicycle	-120 €/pers

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
+33 (0)1 80 91 98 18 or bonjour@levelovoyageur.com