



Trip description

Cycle tour in Loire: From Orléans to Tours

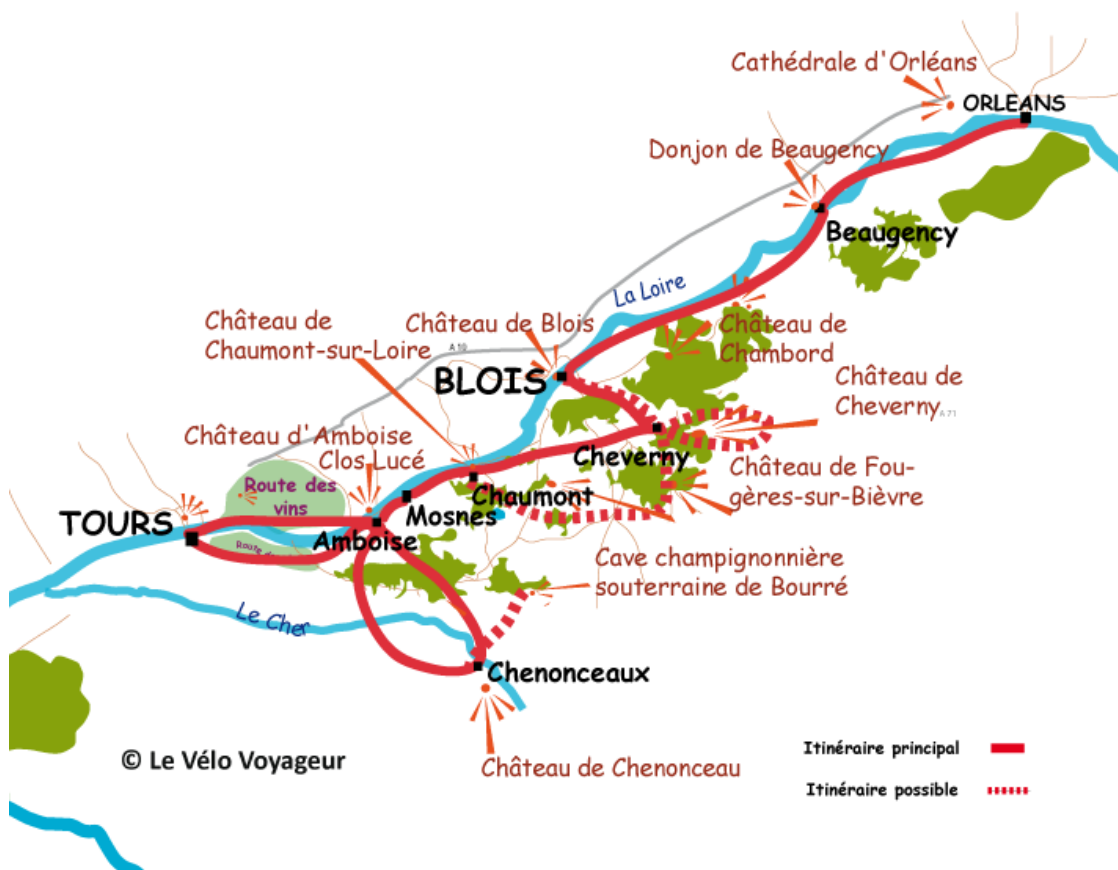


| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Destination | France |
| Location | Loire Valley |
| Duration | 10 days |
| Difficulty Level | Very easy |
| Validity | From April to November |
| Minimum age | 1 year |
| Reference | L1001 |

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



From Orléans to Tours, ride along the "Loire à vélo" cycling paths and discover France's most prestigious chateau de la Loire: Blois, Chambord,

Amboise, Cheverny, Beauregard, Chaumont, Le Clos-Lucé, Chenonceau... The Loire Valley is on the Unesco World Heritage List and is perfect for a cycling holiday: cycling paths and roads take you across forests, plains and vineyards on a flat itinerary. Day after day, your cycle tour reveals the wonders of this enchanting area: the magic of Chambord, the delicious Loire wines tasting, the medieval town in Tours and the iconic chateau de Chenonceau. This bike trip combines on a wonderful way the beautiful landscape, the unmissable chateaux de la Loire and the delicious French cuisine.

Day 1

Arrival in Orléans

Orléans was a very flourishing city during medieval times and has hosted many famous figures such as Saint-Aignan, Calvin and of course Jeanne of Arc. Discover its rich history by visiting the Sainte-Croix Cathedral, the crypt of Saint-Aignan, the restored house where Jeanne of Arc stayed and the many mansions like Hôtel Groslot or Hôtel des Créneaux.

Day 2

Orléans - Beaugency

Bike
39km

Along the wild river banks of the Loire, you ride leisurely through the lush countryside to the charming city of Beaugency overlooked by its 11th century dungeon.

Day 3

Beaugency - Blois

Bike
49km

You continue your ride to Blois, 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., where you discover its Blois old town, its paved streets and all small stairs. Discover the charms of the chateau de Blois, which was the stage of many court plots and particularly the spiral staircase is an architectural marvel.

Day 4

Blois - Cheverny

Bike
24km

You cycle to Cheverny on small country roads lined with rape fields and vineyards. Cheverny castle is the one who inspired Hergé to draw Moulinsart castle in the comic book Tintin. It stands out thanks to its rich furniture.

Day 5

Cheverny - Mosnes

Bike
39/46km

2 route options

Today you have the choice of two bike routes. if you like, stroll through the Chateau de Beauregard's art gallery. You'll find over 327 portraits of famous European leaders that forged history between 14th and 17th Century. Looking for something more active? Ride through vineyards before arriving in front of the Fougères-sur-Bievre drawbridge. Your ride then takes you on a delightful route as you follow the totes, or traditional boats along the path from Loire to Chaumont-sur-Loire. The city is famous for its fairy tale castle as well as the International Garden Festival which displays over 30 themed gardens with a variety of garden art. After marveling at the castle and gardens, continue your biking with a short trip to the village of Mosnes.

Day 6

Mosnes - Amboise

Bike
11km

This morning's route takes you directly to the beautiful city of Amboise. The medieval town has links to the French Royal Family and is where Leonardo da Vinci spent his last few years. Explore the many cobblestone streets and check out the unique architectural features of the Chateau d'Amboise. The Chateau gives you one of the best overall views of the Loire Valley.

Day 7

Amboise

Let the medieval atmosphere of this city seduce you. Admire the machines designed by Leonardo da Vinci which are surprisingly up-to-date in Clos-Lucé, the last place where he lived and died.

Day 8

Day trip to the castle of Chenonceau

Bike
45/70km

2 route options

Your tranquil bike route today leads you through idyllic natural beauty with rivers and forests, leading to the most iconic Chateaux de la Loire, the "Chateau de Chenonceau". This historical castle had an almost uninterrupted succession of women who built, restored and saved the castle. Today it is one of the most photographed castles in France. If you like, continue riding along the banks of the Cher River until you reach the underground city near Bourre. This subterranean city can be viewed to experience what life was like living in a cave-structure. You'll see an amazing reconstruction of an underground city.

Day 9

Amboise-Tours

Bike
26/34km

2 route options

Today you have a choice about which wine route to take to get to the charming town of Tours. Both routes offer great scenery and pleasant ride! One route leads you through Vouvray's sparkling wine vineyards with picture-postcard scenery. The other route leads you through the Montlouis-sur-Loire stunning white wine region.

Day 10

Departure from Tours

Before you leave, take time to explore the half-timbered houses, churches and museums in Tours. Saint-Gatien Cathedral and Plumerau Square are worth a visit. Then it's time to say goodbye to your bike as this memorable vacation comes to an end.

Let us know if you want to extend your stay. Otherwise, a regional train can take you back to your starting point.

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!



Practical information

To get to departure point:

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

By train: inter-regional trains from Paris-Austerlitz station to Orléans Centre. The estimated duration of the trip is 1h05. From Tours, you can take a regional train to Orléans Centre. The approximate duration of the trip is 1h15. To plan your trip, www.raileurope.com.

Parking

If you drive to Orléans, you can park your car in a secured car park located in the city center, close to your accommodation and the train station. The rate from 8 to 14 days is 50€. 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 20.10€/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

Double room fare

999 €/pers

9 nights in ** or *** hotels

9 breakfasts

8-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

a visit of a chocolate factory

a visit and tasting in "Cave des Producteurs de Vouvray"

a bottle of Vouvray wine for two people

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

28 €/dinner

Single occupancy extra

42 €/night

Extra night in Orléans

60 €/pers

Extra night in Tours

55 €/pers

Category B

Double room fare

1085 €/pers

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

9 breakfasts

8-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 of a chocolate factory
a visit and wine tasting in "Cave des Producteurs de Vouvray"
a bottle of Vouvray wine for two people
the return of the bikes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
24h/24 hotline

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| High season extra (*) | 65 €/pers |
| Half-board | 28 €/dinner |
| Single occupancy extra | 54 €/night |
| Extra night in Orléans | 75 €/pers |
| Extra night in Tours | 60 €/pers |

Category C

1339 €/pers

Double room fare

9 nights in *** or **** hotels
9 breakfasts
8-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 of a chocolate factory
a visit and tasting in "Cave des Producteurs de Vouvray"
a bottle of Vouvray wine for two people
the return of the bikes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
24h/24 hotline

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| High season extra (*) | 80 €/pers |
| Half-board | 31 €/dinner |
| Single occupancy extra | 97 €/night |
| Extra night in Orléans | 90 €/pers |
| Extra night in Tours | 95 €/pers |

Options

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Extra for the rental of an electric bike (8 days) | 100 €/pers |
| Discount if you ride your own bicycle | -115 €/pers |

(*) **High season:**

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

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)

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

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