



Trip description

Cycling in the Loire Valley from Blois to Saumur

You discover in detail between Blois and Saumur the beauties of the Loire Valley. The Loire à vélo bike path takes you through vineyards, along the cave houses to the most beautiful castles of the Loire Valley.



Destination	France
Location	Vallée de la Loire
Duration	15 days
Difficulty Level	Moderate
Validity	From april to novembre
Minimum age	1 year
Reference	L1401

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



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Slow down to discover the many beauties of the Loire Valley. From Blois to Saumur passing by Amboise, Tours or Chinon, you will be amazed of

those medieval towns thanks to which the Loire region is highly renowned. The short cycling stretches give you enough time to visit the most prestigious chateaux de la Loire, like the chateau de Chambord, the chateau de Cheverny (inspiration for Tintin), the chateau de Chenonceau, the chateau de Villandry or the gardens of Chaumont. You have also the time to enjoy the beautiful landscapes, the ride through forests, vineyards and along cavehouses and the wine tasting of the delicious local wines. A real delight for the sense, no matter young or old.

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 - Cheverny

Bike
24/40/68km

3 route options

Start your ride by pedaling through Chateau de Chambord's lush forest with massive trees. Take a peek at the stone bridge salamanders engraved on the walls of Loire's most extravagant castle. As you enjoy the shade from hundred-year-old tree, you'll follow the trail along Crosson creek to the Chateau de Cheverny. The inspiration for Moulinsart Castle came from the Tintin books, which you may have read.

DAY 3

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 Beaugard'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 toques, 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 4

Mosnes - Amboise

Bike
11km

This morning's route takes you directly to the beautiful city of Amboise. The medieval town has link to the French Royal Family and is where Leonardo de 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 5

Amboise

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

DAY 6

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 7

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 8

Tours

Discover the charming old neighborhood in Tours boasting many half-timbered houses. Stroll around and visit Saint-Gatien cathedral, the Wilson bridge and Plumereau square.

DAY 9

Tours - Azay

Bike
35km

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.

DAY 10

Day-trip to Saché

Bike
27km

You can either enjoy a rest day in Azay-le-Rideau to quietly visit the castle or explore the surrounding villages on beautiful country roads. You start by learning all about the wickerwork in Villaines-les-Rochers, then go through Saché and its castle, famous for regularly hosting the French writer Honoré de Balzac. Then, you ride down to Pont-de-Ruan, village at the confluence of several rivers that flow into the Indre. You can visit the miller's house in order to discover the history of the mills of the village.

DAY 11

Azay - Chinon

Bike
32km

Keep on cycling on « 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 12

Day-trip to the Chinon wineyards

Bike
38km

You can choose to spend your day chilling in the medieval town and visiting the fortress, or choose to ride your bike in the surrounding vineyards and hills. If so, don't miss the former house of the French writer Rabelais which is called "La Devinière". Don't forget to stop in one of the local wine cellars to taste the Chinon wines.

DAY 13

Chinon - Montsoreau or Fontevraud

Bike
20/27km

Choose between canoeing or biking

TWO OPTIONS :

You can choose to exchange your bicycle for a canoe and float along the Vienne River to Montsoreau or continue cycling to Fontevraud and visit its beautiful abbey.

DAY 14

Montsoreau or Fontevraud - Saumur

Bike
15/21km

2 route options

Today's route alternates between cave houses and vineyards. Then, you can choose to ride along the Loire or through the hills. Both paths lead to the village of Souzay-Champigny where you ride among beautiful cave houses. Stop by to taste the wines of Saumur. At the end of this charming route, you discover the city of Saumur and its castle with impressive dungeons.

DAY 15

Departure from Saumur

Discover the charming old neighborhood of Saumur and the imposing castle over the city. This city is the capital of equestrian art and a main spot of French cuisine and in the center of a very rich wine region

If you want the regional train takes you back to your starting point or you can also extend your stay.

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. 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 20.40€/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

1 495€/pers

Double room fare

14 nights in ** or *** hotels
14 breakfasts
13-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (saddle 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"
one day of canoeing between Chinon and Montsoreau (optional)
the return of the bikes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
24h/24 hotline

High season extra (*)

60 €/pers

Halfboard

29 €/dinner

Extra for a single room

43 €/night

Extra night in Blois

50 €/pers

Extra night in Saumur

55 €/pers

Category B

1 649 €/pers

Double room fare

14 nights in ** or *** hotels or bed & breakfasts
14 breakfasts
13-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"
one day of canoeing between Chinon and Montsoreau (optional)
the return of the bikes
local visitors' taxes

sending charge of the travel documents in France
24h/24 hotline

High season extra (*)	80 €/pers
Halfboard	29 €/dinner
Extra for a single room	50 €/night
Extra night in Blois	55 €/pers
Extra night in Saumur	98 €/pers

Category C

2 299€/pers

Double room fare

14 nights in *** or **** hotels
14 breakfasts
13-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"
one day of canoeing between Chinon and Montsoreau (optional)
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High season extra (*)	100 €/pers
Halfboard	32 €/dinner
Extra for a single room	80 €/night
Extra night in Blois	75 €/pers
Extra night in Saumur	110 €/pers

Options

Extra for the rental of an electric bike (13 days)	125 €/pers
Discount if you ride your own bicycle	-135 €/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)

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