



Trip description

Cycling the Velo Francette route : From Saumur to Niort

From the pearl of the Loire Valley, to the gateway to the Poitevin marshes, enjoy a bike ride to discover part of the Velo Francette itinerary!

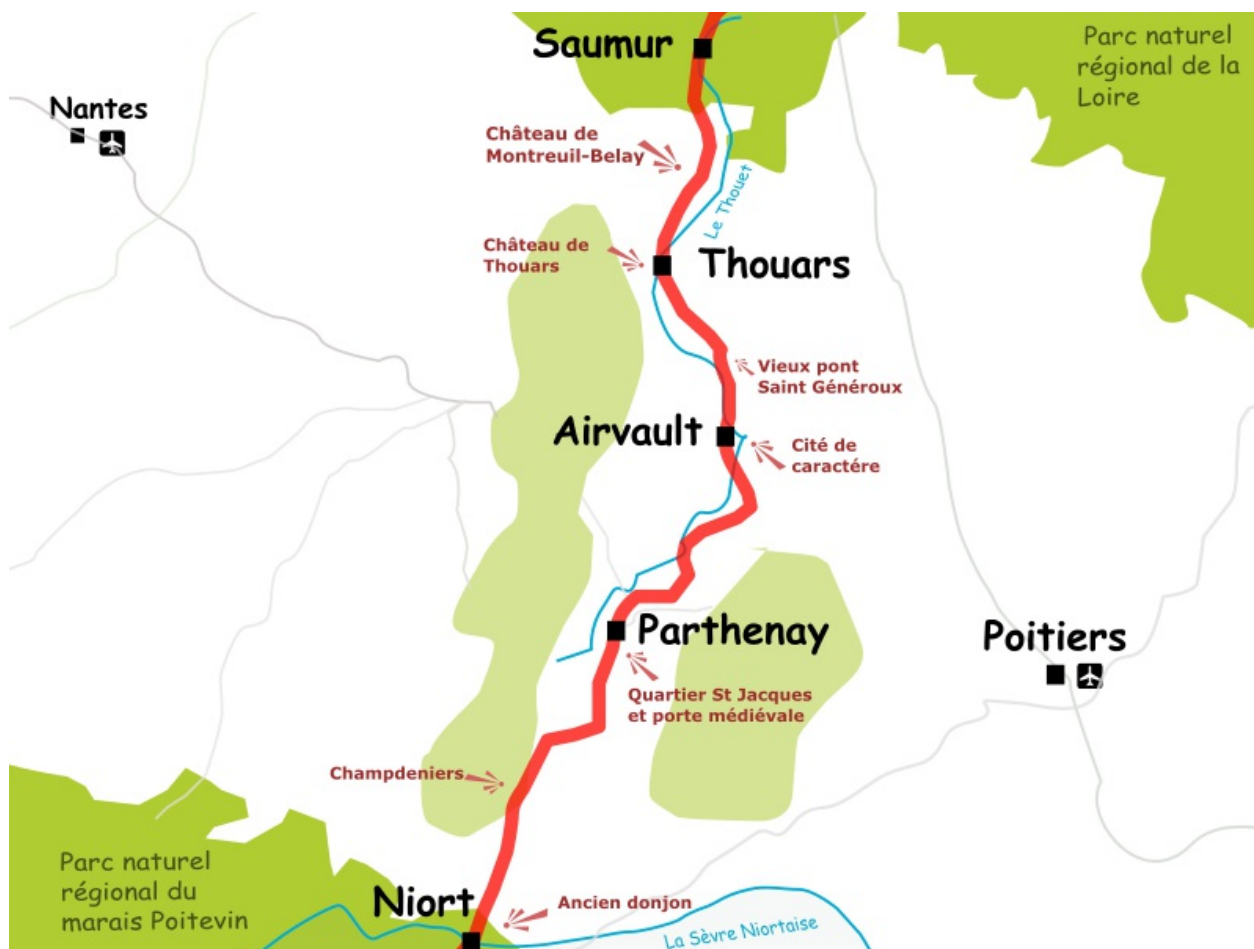


Destination	France
Location	Charente-Maritime
Duration	6 days
Difficulty Level	Moderate
Validity	From April to October
Minimum age	14 years old
Reference	VF0601

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



From Saumur to Niort, take the time to discover the Velo Francette itinerary by bike and let yourself be guided by the authenticity and gentleness of

the itinerary.

You start your journey with a glimpse of the Loire castles, Saumur, to appreciate later the calm, the generous nature and the cultural heritage that Montreuil-Bellay and its citadel offers or the majestic castle of Thouars overlooking the Thouet. Continue on the Velo Francette route, without losing sight of the Thouet, to the small town of character, Airvault. Then dive into the medieval atmosphere of the city of Parthenay, located on one of the roads to Santiago de Compostela, and take the opportunity to stroll through the cobbled streets of the capital of the game, before ending your journey in the south of the Gâtine country, where stands Niort, its ancient dungeon and market.

Through bucolic landscapes, this part of the Velo Francette transports you through time. A stay that rhymes with fresh air, authenticity and culture!

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 - Thouars

Bike
47km

You leave Saumur and its castle resting on its "emerald rock" and start by following the Thouet river through abundant and calm nature. A break is essential in Montreuil-Bellay and its castle with majestic architecture. The building, which overlooks the Thouet, offers you a splendid setting for your lunch.

Continue your route in the afternoon and enjoy the cool shade of the Ballastière lake and the generous flora that surrounds it. After a beautiful climb, you end your day in Thouars and its castle of the Dukes of La Trémoille.

Day 3

Thouars - Airvault

Bike
30km

This morning, you leave Thouars and enjoy a magnificent view of the castle of the Dukes of La Trémoille overlooking the Thouet and follow the river throughout the day. Plan to take a small supply of food for this day!

You will ride to Saint G n roux where you can admire its old bridge and its pre-Romanesque church. Pedal a few more kilometers to reach Airvault. You will enjoy this small village, and walk in the small steep streets.

Day 4

Airvault - Parthenay

Bike
38km

Your day begins by riding to Saint-Loup-sur-Thouet, appreciate its splendid 17th century castle and its French gardens. Continue your journey following the Velo Francette signs to the C bron lake, a peaceful haven with bucolic landscapes.

Your arrival in Parthenay by the bottom of the city allows you to pass the old gate and the fortifications. You will then discover cobbled streets and half-timbered houses. Soak up the medieval atmosphere of the city which is transformed every summer into the capital of the game.

Day 5

Parthenay - Niort

Bike
55km

This stage of the Velo Francette itinerary goes west to reach the Vend e. On the horizon this morning takes shape the country of G tine, between authentic villages, country roads and generous nature, the relief becomes more marked. Visit Mazi res-en-G tine with its Romanesque church and halfway along the route allow

yourself a stop at Champdeniers, a village overlooking the valley with its old tannery site and its castle.

You will reach the river banks of the Sèvre Niortaise at Temanteuil, then ride to the town of Niort. Gateway to the Poitevin marshes, you will appreciate the pleasant and welcoming atmosphere of the city.

Take the time to stroll through the narrow streets of Niort and admire its ancient dungeon and its churches, in particular the church of Saint-André with its bell tower which embellishes the capital of Deux Sèvres.

Day 6

Departure from Niort

After your breakfast, take time to discover the charms and animation of downtown Niort. The train will bring you back to your departure point if you wish. You can also extend your stay.

Accommodation

Category B

You will be accommodated in 3-Star hotels or Bed and Breakfasts. We have selected the accommodations for their charm, and their quality. Breakfast is included.



** Example of the type of accommodation*

Practical information

To get to departure point:

By plane: flight to Paris or Nantes and then train to Saumur.

By train: Train from Paris Montparnasse station. The estimated duration of the trip is 2h30. To plan your trip, www.raileurope.com.

Parking

If you drive to Saumur, 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 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 with booking in advance and bicycles are free (subject to availability).

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

Package not available from the 12th to the 23rd of July 2023 (*International games festival in Parthenay*)

Category B

Double room fare

729 €/pers

5 nights in *** charming hotels or bed & breakfast

5 breakfasts

4-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (saddle bags, locks, toolkit)

luggage transport from one lodging to the other

the access to our mobile app including the roadbook and the practical and tourist information

the return of the bikes

7d/7hotline

Extra for a single room

On request

Extra night in Saumur

60 €/pers

Extra night in La Rochelle

79 €/pers

Options

Extra for the rental of an electric bike (6 days)

80 €/pers

Low season(*) extra charge

80 €/pers

Discount if you ride your own bicycle

60 €/pers

The package doesn't include:

the journey to the tour location

the drinks

local visitors' taxes

the meals which are not included

the entrance fee to sites

insurances (optional)

(*) **Low season :**

From the 1st of April until the 15th of June and from the 15th of September to the 31st of October

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

0-4 year : -70%

5-11 year : -50%

12-17 year : -30%

For more information or booking : www.levelovoyageur.com
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