



★★★★★ (17)

Castles on River Loire

LA ROUTE ROYALE

There are no limits to the romance of the Loire Valley. The cycle tour starts in Blois, a pretty town with a historic old town and the imposing castle. Cultural wealth, rural charm and romantic architecture: these three terms best describe a tour on two wheels through France.

In between all the famous castles of the Loire you cycle through the charming landscape from city to city. Always taking centre stage: the culture! Kings, feudal lords and court ladies once enjoyed a noble life here. Today you can explore the historical residences and be transported back in time. Would you like an extra helping of history? Then come with us on a cycle tour over La Route Royale!

Route Royale details

The castles Langeais, Ussé, Villandry, Azay-le-Rideau – to name but a few – form the dream route 'La Route Royale'. The first-class mix of unmistakable architecture and impressive landscapes make the cycle tour to the castles of the Loire an unforgettable experience. We'll tell you now which highlights are waiting for you!

The highlights of the Loire Castles

- Villandry & Ussé Castles: One of the most magnificent castles on your trip is Villandry Castle. Its unique terrace gardens, the flower-covered arbours and the numerous fountains invite you to dream. On the way to Chinon, Ussé Castle stands on the edge of the forest. The sleeping beauty castle sparks the imagination about the famous fairy tale from Brothers Grimm. You will love it!
- Azay-le-Rideau: On the cycle path through old vineyards and villages you will reach Crissay. With its buildings and houses from the 15th Century, the village is one of the most beautiful in France.

The Azay-le-Rideau castle there is brimming with splendour. In other words: a magical Renaissance castle of a special quality!

Useful information about the Route Royale

Attention culture vultures! Within eight days you will experience much culture, architecture and nature. You cycle along low-traffic side streets through the gently curving Loire Valley. The programme includes between 40 and 75 kilometres a day.

Any questions about La Route Royale? The experts of the Eurobike team will be happy to provide you with further information about the tour. Contact us now!

- Get all information and more tour tips along the [Loire Cycle Path](#).

Medium



8 Days / 7 Nights



Self-guided Tour

To the online version



Itinerary

DAY
1

Arrival in Blois

Discover the historic old town and the imposing castle, already the kings of France were magically attracted to this place.

Sample hotel category A: Anne de Bretagne

Sample hotel category B: Le Monarque

DAY
7

Blois – Tours | approx. 75 km

The river flows between the gold shimmering sandbanks in a leisurely manner. Typical of this area are the rock housings, which are directly built into the soft lime stones. Sometimes, only the rising smoke reveals their existence. You cross the Loire in order to appreciate the most royal of all the Loire Castles: Castle Ambois. It accommodated five kings and a Roman emperor. In addition, a genius of the 16th century attracts your attention – Leonardo da Vinci, who spent his last years in Ambois. On the Loire Cycle Path you keep cycling on to Tours. Alternatively take the train (independently) from Amboise and hence cut the stage short by about 30 km.

Sample hotel category A und B: Ibis Styles Centre

DAY
2

Tours – Chinon | approx. 55 km

The river Cher leads you directly to the castle Villandry with its terraced gardens. Certainly, you should not miss paying a visit to this famous installation. Every visitor will be amazed by the shadowy footpaths, the flower-bedecked bowers, the fountains and the artistically laid out vegetable gardens. Some kilometres further on you will exchange the bank of the Cher for the bank of the famous Loire. And again you will be tempted by the next castle – Langeais. From the top of the fortified tower (this castle exclusively served for military purposes) you will see the river and its whole surroundings lying in front of you. On the verge of the dark and mysterious forest of Chinon rises the castle of Ussé, the castle of the Sleeping Beauty. Via small villages and on side roads you will reach today's destination – Chinon.

Sample hotel category A: Diderot

Sample hotel category B: Rive Sud

DAY
3*Excursion Fontevraud l'Abbaye – Chinon*

approx. 55 km

The Vienne escorts you first in the small village Candes-St-Matin. A grandiose and romantic church was built at the place of death of the holy St. Martin. In Montsoreau conflate the Vienne with the powerful Loire – a impressing natural spectacle. These 'cave gardens' are approx. 800 km long. Your cyclist calves take you first to Fontevraud l'Abbaye. Nowhere else in this world, you will find a medieval monastery that is so entirely preserved like the one in Fontevraud. You pass the birth house of Francois Rabelais, the famous author and also through the valley, where his story line of the book "Gargantua" takes place.

Sample hotel category A: Diderot

Sample hotel category B: Rive Sud

DAY
4*Chinon – Azay-le-Rideau*

approx. 40 km

You leave Chinon with its medieval alleys, which crowd between the river and the rocks, towards the north. The tour leads you through vineyards and lonely villages. Like Crissay, once entirely deserted – it is now resettled by artists and people who always know how to make the best of things. But don't be afraid – there will also be a castle for admiration today: to be precise, one of extremely high quality – Azay-le-Rideau. Balzac wrote about it "a diamond with thousand facets, set by the Indre". What could we add to this? You will spend the night in town and have, therefore, the chance to enjoy the magic of the castle with its cultural events.

Sample hotel category A: de Biencourt

Sample hotel category B: Val de Loire

DAY
5*Azay-le-Rideau – Chenonceaux*

approx. 60 km

There is another highlight in store: this time concerning nature. Through the romantic river landscape, steadily following the Indre, you will reach Montbazou. A short ascent awaits you. By pedalling really hard over a mountain ridge you reach the Cher Valley. On meadow paths and along the Cher you go to Bléré, a small market town. For many visitors the Castle of Chenonceaux is the topping on the cake. A magnificent, double floored bridge gallery goes over the river. But before the lovely palace garden will enthuse your eyes. But see and discover on your own.

Sample hotel category A: La Roseraie

Sample hotel category B: Logis Le Relais

DAY
6*Chenonceaux – Blois*

approx. 50 - 80 km

Today you have to choose between two tour variants: the shorter stage takes you through the lovely landscape of the Touraine to the Castle Chaumont, and then on romantic paths along the Loire to Blois. After moving into your hotel room you will go out on reconnaissance! The Castle Blois with its galleries, projected balconies and bay windows could be your destination.

Or there is the second, longer variant for all lovers of the Loire Castles: via Montrichard, Cheverny, Villesavine to the Castle Chambord. As far as the eye can see the 'Domaine de Chambord' stretches here. Already from a distance, you can see the walls of the biggest and most magnificent residence on the Loire shimmering through the trees. It is the immortal legacy of a disloyal king. You are spoilt for choice!

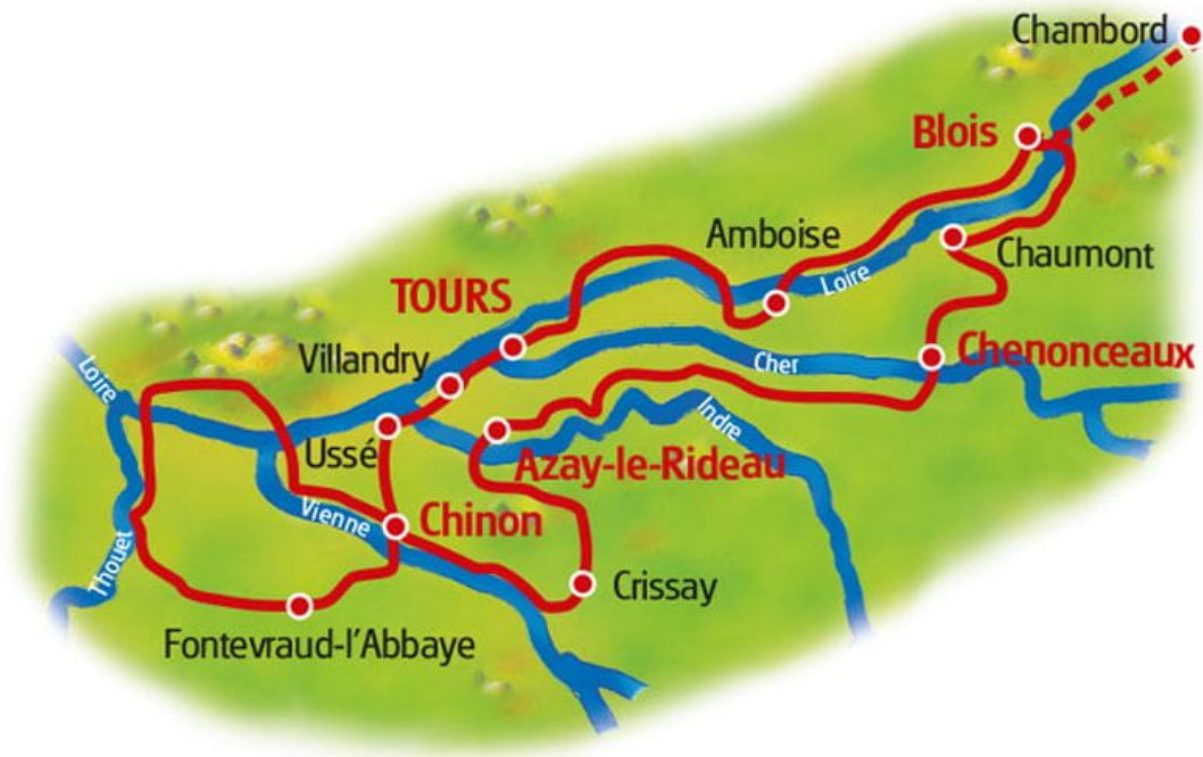
Sample hotel category A: Anne de Bretagne

Sample hotel category B: Le Monarque

DAY
8*Departure or extension*

Tour character

Mainly flat on cycle paths and low traffic secondary roads with almost consistently very good signposting. The terrain in the vineyards is somewhat more hilly and there are also a few short ascents to tackle.



Prices and events

Place of arrival: Blois

	Season 1 23.03.2024 - 12.04.2024 28.09.2024 - 14.10.2024 Arrival daily	Season 2 13.04.2024 - 10.05.2024 07.09.2024 - 27.09.2024 Arrival daily	Season 3 11.05.2024 - 06.09.2024 Arrival daily
Castles on River Loire, 8 days, cat. A, FR-LORBB-08A			
Base price	1,079.00	1,139.00	1,199.00
Surcharge single room	379.00	379.00	379.00
Castles on River Loire, 8 days, cat. B, FR-LORBB-08B			
Base price	939.00	999.00	1,059.00
Surcharge single room	379.00	379.00	379.00

Category A: 3*** hotels (French classification)
Category B: 2** and 3*** hotels (French classification)

Additional nights

Place of arrival: Blois

	Season 1 Mar 23, 2024 - Apr 12, 2024 Sep 28, 2024 - Oct 14, 2024 Arrival daily	Season 2 Apr 13, 2024 - May 10, 2024 Sep 7, 2024 - Sep 27, 2024 Arrival daily	Season 3 May 11, 2024 - Sep 6, 2024 Arrival daily
Blois			
Double room pp Cat. A	69.00	69.00	79.00
Surcharge single room	49.00	49.00	49.00
Blois			
Double room pp Cat. B	65.00	65.00	79.00

	Season 1 Mar 23, 2024 - Apr 12, 2024 Sep 28, 2024 - Oct 14, 2024 Arrival daily	Season 2 Apr 13, 2024 - May 10, 2024 Sep 7, 2024 - Sep 27, 2024 Arrival daily	Season 3 May 11, 2024 - Sep 6, 2024 Arrival daily
Surcharge single room	6500	6500	6500

Our rental bikes

	<i>Filter</i>
21-gear unisex incl. rental bike insurance	99.00
21-gear gents incl. rental bike insurance	99.00
rental bike PLUS incl. rental bike insurance	169.00
Electric bike incl. rental bike insurance	259.00

Prices per person in EUR

Services and infos

Services

Included

- Accommodation in your selected category
- Breakfast
- Luggage transfer
- EUROBIKE developed route
- Detailed tour documents 1x per room (German, English, French)
- App for Navigation and GPS-data
- Service hotline

Optional extras

- Bike rental, including rental bike insurance

Infos

Arrival / Parking / Departure

- Blois Train station
- Paris airport
- Public garage costs approx. EUR 30 per week, no reservation possible/necessary.

Things to note

- Please note, that for this trip high quality, but slightly different from the description, rental bikes are provided by our local partner.
- Tourist tax, if due, is not included in the price!
- Further important information according to the package travel law can be found [here!](#)

Contact & booking

Do you still have questions about the tour? We are happy to help and look forward to your inquiry.



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Book now

