



★★★★★ (8)

Castles on river Loire

IN THE KING'S VALLEY - EXPLORER TOUR

This cycling tour leads you into the romantic Loire valleys and its tributaries, into the 'Garden of France' and is totally characterised by royal residences built here centuries ago. Kings, overlords and court ladies seduced by the scenic allure of the region, took up residence here – and left their marks, which are best followed by bike: Villandry with its marvellous grounds, the 'Sleeping Beauty Palace' Ussé, the royal abbey of Fontevraud, which was at times used as a prison, the spectacular Chenonceaux palace, built on top of the foundations of a watermill situated directly into the river Cher ... One fascinating, one-of-a-kind building followed by the next. Inbetween vineyards and wine villages oozing rural charm cover the area.

Adventurous cyclists get their money's worth and take plenty of time especially for Chambord palace and the numerous sights of Blois and Amboise. Without any pressure you cycle from palace to palace, delight in the stupendous architecture and revel in the royal sense of life of a region, where the wealthy and powerful of days gone by used to abandon themselves to idleness and where you too will feel just like you live in clover.

- Get all information and many more tour tips for our cycle tours along the [Loire Cycle Path](#).

Medium



10 Days / 9 Nights



Self-guided Tour

To the online version



Itinerary

DAY
1

Arrival in Tours

In the late afternoon is the welcome briefing and handing over of rental bikes (if booked).

Sample hotel category A and B: [Ibis Styles Centre](#)

DAY
2

Tours – Chinon | approx. 50 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 | approx. 55 km

The river Vienne initially leads you into the little village of Candes-St-Martin. At the place of death of Saint Martin an amazing Romanesque church was built. In Montsoreau the river Vienne joins the mighty river Loire – an impressive nature spectacle. The 'Cave Gardens' feature a length of over 800 km. You cycle through neat vineyards to Fontevraud l'Abbaye. Nowhere else in the world will you come across a medieval monastery complex so completely preserved as Fontevraud. Now follows a 'literary return journey' to Chinon. Your route leads you past the birth place of the distinguished author Francois Rabelais, as well as through the valley where the plot of his famous 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 alleyways clustered between river and castle headed North. The route leads you through old vineyards and remote villages to Crissay, with its houses dating back to the 15th century it is considered one of the most beautiful villages in France. Naturally again today you get to marvel at yet another palace, in fact a grade A specimen: Azay-le-Rideau, a Renaissance palace featuring peak perfection. ‚A diamond with a thousand facets, set by the river Indre‘, according to the words of Balzac. What else is there to say? You spend the night directly in the village and hence have the opportunity to enjoy the magic of the palace together 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 km

This tour leads you through the pretty scenery of the Touraine to Chaumont castle and from there you proceed along romantic paths along the river Loire to Blois. After settling into your accommodation you embark on an exploration tour. Bloir palace with its galleries, protruding balconies, bay windows and aspen could be your destination.

Sample hotel category A: [Anne de Bretagne](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Le Monarque](#)

DAY
7*Loop tour to the castle Chambord*

approx. 50 km

Today is mostly dedicated to Chambord palace. Already from a distance this largest and most stupendous residence on the river Loire is shimmering through the trees. You get a very good idea of the incredible dimensions of the complex if you cycle around the palace along the canal. Just the park is as large as the 20 districts of Paris and is surrounded by a 35 km long wall. Half a millennium of French history in Chambord has left its mark: built in the Renaissance are under the art-loving King Francois I., venue for glittering parties and hunting festivities under 'le Roi Soleil' Ludwig XIV., plundered during the French Revolution and today after Versailles the second most visited palace in France. It will be very easy for you to find lots of good reasons for it.

Sample hotel category A: [Anne de Bretagne](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Le Monarque](#)

DAY
8*Blois – Amboise*

approx. 45 km

The Loire-cycle path leads you from Blois to Chaumont-sur-Loire. The palace here has never been a royal residence and is hence a bit of an insider tip. It is a sight to see mainly due to the giant park, the annual venue for an international garden show. You end your day in Amboise, whose palace is an especially early example for Renaissance architecture in the Loire-valley. One of the greatest artists of this era found his final resting place here: the town house Clos Lucé attached to the castle is very much dedicated to the memory of Leonardo da Vinci.

Sample hotel category A: [Bellevue](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Chaptal l'Annex](#)

DAY
9*Amboise – Tours*

approx. 30 km

The final stage of your cycling tour leads you once more into the vineyards on the slopes above the river Loire, into the wine-growing area Montlouis-sur-Loire and the little town with the same name with its idyllic location on the river. Here we recommend a short break before you continue again along the riverbank back to Tours.

Sample hotel category A and B: [Ibis Styles Centre](#)

DAY
9*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: Tours

	Season 1 01.04.2023 - 14.04.2023 30.09.2023 - 07.10.2023 Arrival Thursday, Saturday	Season 2 15.04.2023 - 12.05.2023 09.09.2023 - 29.09.2023 Arrival Thursday, Saturday	Season 3 13.05.2023 - 08.09.2023 Arrival Thursday, Saturday
Castles on River Loire, 10 days, cat. A, FR-LORTT-10A			
Base price	1,199.00	1,279.00	1,339.00
Surcharge single room	459.00	459.00	459.00
Castles on River Loire, 10 days, cat. B, FR-LORTT-10B			
Base price	1,029.00	1,099.00	1,159.00
Surcharge single room	439.00	439.00	439.00

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

Additional nights

Place of arrival: Tours

	Season 1 Apr 1, 2023 - Apr 14, 2023 Sep 30, 2023 - Oct 7, 2023 Arrival Thursday, Saturday	Season 2 Apr 15, 2023 - May 12, 2023 Sep 9, 2023 - Sep 29, 2023 Arrival Thursday, Saturday	Season 3 May 13, 2023 - Sep 8, 2023 Arrival Thursday, Saturday
Tours			
Double room p. P. cat. A	65.00	65.00	65.00
Surcharge single room	45.00	45.00	45.00
Tours			
Double room p. P. cat. B	65.00	65.00	65.00

	Season 1 Apr 1, 2023 - Apr 14, 2023 Sep 30, 2023 - Oct 7, 2023 Arrival Thursday, Saturday	Season 2 Apr 15, 2023 - May 12, 2023 Sep 9, 2023 - Sep 29, 2023 Arrival Thursday, Saturday	Season 3 May 13, 2023 - Sep 8, 2023 Arrival Thursday, Saturday
Surcharge single room	45.00	45.00	45.00

Our rental bikes

	<i>Filter</i>
21-gear unisex incl. rental bike insurance	109.00
21-gear gents incl. rental bike insurance	109.00
rental bike PLUS incl. rental bike insurance	175.00
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 travel documents 1x per room (German, English)
- App for Navigation and GPS-data available
- Service hotline

Optional extras

- Bike rental, including rental bike insurance

Infos

Arrival / Parking / Departure

- Tours train station
- Paris airport
- Car park costs EUR 50,- per week, no reservation possible/necessary.

Things to note

- Tourist tax, if due, is not included in the price!
- For this trip, high quality rental bikes are provided by our local partner
- 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

