

Loire Valley by bike - Selection version From Blois to Angers

Accommodation in hotels with 'Selected' or 'High-end' option
7 days, 6 nights - 6 cycling days

Self guided tour

Level 1.5/3



Since 2000, the Loire Valley has been listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, from Sully sur Loire, southeast of Orléans, to Chalonnes sur Loire, southwest of Angers. The mild climate was enticing to kings, who built the most magnificent chateaux of the Renaissance along the banks of the longest river in France: Chambord of course, but also Blois, Amboise, Chenonceau, Chinon and Saumur... Embark on a journey of discovery on the last great wild river in Europe and explore its rich cultural heritage while following the bikeable trails of the "Loire à Vélo" (the "Loire on a Bike"). From Blois to Angers, you'll be riding through the heart of the "Valley of Kings" and the "Garden of France." Take the time to explore the features and specialties of the region, to taste local wines, to take a behind the scenes tour of the prestigious Cadre Noir in Saumur... That's also what the art of French living is all about!

Seven unforgettable days on a "royal" bike tour

HIGHLIGHTS:

- A tour designed in the heart of the Loire Valley, which is on the UNSECO World Heritage list
- Magnificent chateaux throughout the tour
- Leave the rental bikes in Angers at the end of your stay!
- Riding on the longest bikeway in France

PROGRAMME

D1 : Blois

Discover the royal city of Blois. Each chateau has its own history, its kings and its symbols. The chateau of Blois mixes the porcupine, the emblem of Louis XII, with the salamander of François 1er. It is a true architectural panorama with its 4 wings of different styles gathered around the courtyard. Check-in in a hotel on B&B formula.

D2 : Loop around Blois : 58 km

Hop on your bike and over to reach Cheverny. The cartoonist Hergé freely borrowed from it to create the Marlinspike chateau in the adventures of Tintin. Then, continue to roll over the jewel of the Loire Valley : Chambord. Nestled in a park of over 5,000 acres, this masterpiece of Renaissance architecture, designed by King François 1er, beckons you. The famous double staircase takes you out onto the terraces, under a forest of chimneys. You might be lucky to spot a herd of deer on the road... Spend the night in Blois in a hotel.

D3 : From Blois to Chenonceau : 54 km

Follow the banks of the Loire to reach the chateau of Chaumont sur Loire and its gardens. The chateau terraces offer one of the most beautiful views of the untamed Loire. You can admire the estate gardens, designed each year by landscape artists coming from around the world. Continue on your way towards Chenonceau, momentarily leaving the Loire for one of its tributaries, the Cher. The "Ladies' Chateau» is in fact inseparable from the river it spans. Walk through gardens that bear the footmarks of Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Medici. Spend the night in Chenonceaux.

D4 : From Chenonceau to Tours : 35 km

Join the banks of the Loire again in Amboise. The royal chateau of Charles VIII and François 1er overlooks the landscape. Visit the Clos Lucé as well, the last home of Leonardo da Vinci, one of the greatest minds of the Renaissance. Tours welcomes you with its old neighborhoods, whose center is located on the famous Place Plum, a favorite of the citizens of Tours. Don't forget to sample the local cuisine in one of the city's many taverns: a Loire fry-up or pike with *beurre blanc* accompanied by a nice glass of chilled wine are calling your name! Spend the night Tours in a hotel.

D5 : From Tours to Chinon : 71 km

Temporarily leave the Loire to reach the banks of the Cher. Villandry awaits you and invites you to its terraced gardens with three levels. Then leave the Cher behind to reach a chateau built on an island on the Indre : Azay le Rideau. Head back to the Loire again to discover the chateau of Rigny-Ussé, also known as the Castle of Sleeping Beauty, which looks like it came straight out of a fairy tale. Head south towards Chinon, riding through the famous AOC classified vineyards to reach the 12th century chateau, which housed private meetings with Joan of Arc and Charles VII. Feel free to sample some local wines, whose qualities Rabelais was already praising in the sixteenth century. Spend the night in Chinon.

D6 : From Chinon to Saumur : 39 km

After this Epicurean leg of the tour, hop on your bike and set off to discover Fontevraud and its royal abbey, one of the largest in Europe. Founded in 1101, the abbey was transformed over the centuries into a monastic estate, and then progressively into a prison estate. You will also discover the troglodyte caves of the cliff, which you follow to arrive at Saumur, which sits at the foot of its towering and majestic chateau... You are in the riding capital, do not hesitate to have a look on the famous Cadre Noir de Saumur. Then, you can sample the famous Saumur Brut in one of the city's many troglodyte caves, where you will be overwhelmed by an abundance of choice! Spend the night in Saumur.

D7 : From Saumur to Angers : 45 km

Leave Saumur and follow the left bank of the Loire. The architectural heritage is rich there and invites you to go back in time: the Romanesque donjon and church of Treves, the monastery in Cunault, the Gallo-Roman amphitheater of Gennes ... Continue your road on the "levee" and do not forget to stop for a break in the beautiful village of Thoureil: this old barge port is still home to some typical taverns. Now cross over to the other bank and ride through ancient marshes reclaimed from the Loire thanks to the famous levees. Exit the royal river and take the ferry to cross the Authion, where will you pass by the impressive slate quarries of Trélazé. Now you are in Angers, with its imposing bicolored chateau overlooking the Maine. End of the trip.

For pre-existing groups, we adapt the level, the length, the price and the programme according to your wishes.

Contact us !

DURING YOUR TRIP

SUPERVISION:

Self guided tour :

You set off alone, equipped with the orientation equipment provided by us : detailed digital roadbook and maps with routes highlighted, to discover the circuit which has been designed by our team. You will be guided by the instructions we have carefully prepared, with the highest level of precision.

LUGGAGE TRANSPORT:

You only need to carry your personal belongings necessary for a day at a time. Bags will be transported by vehicle or assistance vehicle. **Please respect the luggage limit of one bag per person, maximum weight of 15kg/bag.**

ACCOMMODATION:

We choose our hotels according to their Hospitality and Welcome : in order to enjoy it, we thank you to book as early as possible.

Overnights in hotels, on bed and breakfast.

Please choose your formula from :

- **Version Selected **hotels : Double room formula :** you will sleep in comfortable 2 person rooms in hotels, guest houses, and sometimes hostels. Sheets and towels will be provided. A bathroom will also be reserved for you. (Single room option – see our website for pricing).
Extra night on B&B in Blois or Angers : consult us.

- **Upscale hotel version:** We selected our accommodations for the quality of their hospitality and comfort in the upscale charm and character category. Capacity is very limited, so in order to take advantage of them we encourage you to make reservations as early as possible. You will sleep in upscale rooms for two in hotels with private bath and toilet. Bed linen and towels are provided. (For single room option, see rates on our website)
Extra night on B&B in Blois or Angers : consult us

FOOD:

Your trip might not be the best time to diet, as it's an occasion to taste the local cooking. We place great importance to the quality of the food we provide : well-balanced and nutritious, providing lots of energy with the specialties of the region incorporated into each meal.

For each stage, we established a list of quality restaurants of different categories, with their contacts. We chose them according to different criteria : cooking of course, but also the service quality, their good value for money, their ambient...

Picnics and dinners are not included.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

Starting from 2 people.

BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE

PRICES:

Have a look on our prices on our website.

REGISTRATION:

At La Rébenne we like to give our customers as much information as possible about our trips and to create a strong relationship with them. Sharing and pleasure are really important parts of our trips.

Contact us

contact@larebenne.com
Tel/Fax +33(0)5 61 65 20 93
or +33(0)6 81 53 77 75

Sale contract and deposit

You'll receive the contract and the insurance policy. We'll consider the registration done when we will have received the contract signed and the deposit corresponding to 40% of the total price of your stay. Once all that is done, we'll send you a confirmation letter.

Payment of outstanding balance

Payable one month before departure. If you register less than a month before departure you'll be asked to pay the whole price at the registration. Once the payment has been made, you'll receive a full list of information about your stay.

Validation

Once the payment has been made, you'll receive a full list of information about your stay.

PROCEDURES

- Passport or ID is compulsory
- We recommend to get a European Health Insurance card (check with the NHS)
- Repatriation insurance as well.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: 1.5/3

You are on good physical form and practice regularly leisure biking or mountain biking, or another physical activity. Stages from 45 to 65km by day, without elevation change.

PERIOD:

From April to October.

DEPARTURE AND MEETING POINT:

Departure from Blois (41).

How to get there:

By car : A10 motorways, towards Blois

By train : Blois train station + shuttle

By plane : Tours airport and then shuttle to the centre town.

THE PRICE INCLUDES :

- Accommodation in a Bed and Breakfast (depending on the option chosen: 'Selected' or 'High-end'),
- Digital roadbook with GPS tracks
- Daily luggage transfers
- Organization and logistics costs

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE :

- Dinners and picnics
- The delivery and return of rental bikes by La Rébenne.
- Extra night in Blois or Angers
- Drinks,
- Personal expenses
- Personal cycling equipment (helmet, gloves)
- Bikes
- Return transport to the meeting point,
- Entry into tourist sites,
- Parking,
- Insurance.

OPTIONS :

- Rental of bikes and equipment
- Extra night of accommodation before or after the stay

See prices on our website or contact us.

INSURANCE:

In accordance with the regulations of our profession, La Rébenne is insured for Professional Civil Liability. However, each participant must hold an individual liability policy as well as individual multi-risk coverage in order to protect themselves from incidents or accidents that may occur before or during the hike or trip. Any additional insurance shall be invoiced on an individual basis and must be purchased on the day you register for the trip.

We offer 2 options - Multi-risk and Cancellation

Package no. 1 - Multi-risk: full guarantee in the case of cancellation, loss of luggage, repatriation assistance, medical expenses, interruption of stay. Coverage provided by Assurever.

Package no. 2 - Cancellation: guarantee only in the case of an impediment prior to departure. Coverage provided by Assurever.

Please refer to the price list on our website, practical information - insurance (infos pratique - assurances): <http://www.larebenne.com/infos-pratiques/assurances.html>

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT:

Good preparation is the key to enjoying your trip. Here are some advice and equipment to help you to prepare your cycle and your bag.

2 bags: 1 small 10 litre rick sack to put the equipment for the day in (cell phone, camera, rain clothes...). 1 big bag, carried by vehicle.

LEISURE BIKE OR MOUNTAIN BIKE (ROAD CYCLE not adapted)

Be sure your bike is in good order and all these points are verified and checked:

- if you are a group bring one substitution road bike
- check your milometer
- tyres
- brakes (and brake cables)
- chain
- transmission system
- wheels
- suspension (make sure there's no leak)
- steering system

Keep in mind: a clean bike is easier to check!

REPAIRING EQUIPMENT

To avoid any mechanical problem you'll be asked to bring:

- 1 spare tyre and 1 inner tube
- 1 bicycle pump
- a puncture repairing kit
- a set of Allen keys
- a small pair of pliers
- a tyre and a piece of tyre
- a tool to take off and put back your chain

You can also take your own tool box made of:

- a brake cable
- some spokes
- a derailleur cable
- oil for the chain
- a rag
- a lock

EQUIPMENT

- helmet (essential) + cap and headband
- cycling gloves and warm gloves
- glasses
- a pair of shoes with wedges
- a pair of shorts
- T-shirt (avoid cotton ones)

BACKPACK FOR THE DAY

- water (at least 3 litres a day per person)
- high energy food or dried fruits
- your repairing kit
- a windcheater
- your picnic
- sun-cream (and lip balm)
- toilet paper and a lighter
- medicine (see below)
- 2 LR6 batteries a day (for the GPS)
- your mobile phone

PICNIC: (not included)

Bring a plastic lunchbox (to avoid any unnecessary waste) and reusable cutlery

LUGGAGE:

You'll have it back every evening at the hotel.

Don't forget to bring a warm sweater, a small toilet bag, a towel, a light pair of shoes, and clothes

MEDECINE:

The instructor for guided tours will carry a first aid box but it's necessary to have at least some medicines such as:

- a mosquito repellent
- a disinfectant and gauze compresses
- Band Aid
- protection cream for your bottom
- your own pills
- water disinfectant pastilles
- a survival blanket

Don't hesitate to check with your doctor for any further information.

AFTER YOUR STAY

Let us know what you think! And to make sure that these fond memories of your trip live on, we'd be delighted to receive any photos, videos, montages or comments you may have made during your tour.

CONTACT

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