

Loire Valley by bike - Cool Version From Orleans to Tours

Accommodation in hotels with 'Selected' or 'High-end' option
6 days, 5 nights - 5 biking days

Self guided tour

Level 1.5/3



From 2000, the Loire Valley has been registered among UNESCO's World Heritage list, from Sully sur Loire, (South East of Orleans)until Chalonnes sur Loire,(South West of Angers). It was the mildness of the climate that seduced Kings to build along France's longest river, the most sumptuous Renaissance chateaux : Chambord, of course, but also Blois, Amboise and Chenonceau... Get on your bike and discover the last wild European river and its rich cultural heritage, following the "Loire à Velo" cycle tracks.

From Orléans to Tours, ride in the heart of "The Valley of the Kings", take your time to taste the local famous wines, to observe the typical fauna... and of course : the French art of living !

6 unforgettable days for a « royal » cycling trip

HIGHLIGHTS :

- A route in the heart of Loire Valley, registered on UNESCO World Heritage List
- The sumptuous chateaux all along the route
- Leave your bikes at Tours at the end of your trip !
- Riding on the longest French designated cycling track

PROGRAMME

D1 : Arrival in Orleans

Arrival at Orleans hotel. Discover the capital of medieval France while getting lost in the ancient streets of the old city where the architectural heritage is everywhere.

D2 : From Orleans to Beaugency : 32 km

Leave the city of Joan of Arc by crossing the Pont de l'Europe, a magnificent work of art that marks the beginning of your journey along the Loire. Nature reclaims her rights at the confluence of the Loire and the Loiret, where you will ride through the nature reserve of St Mesmin. The chateau of Meung sur Loire is the first one you will see, with its beautiful French gardens. Make a stop in Beaugency, whose legendary bridge will take you into the heart of this picturesque medieval village.

Night in Beaugency - B&B.

D3 : From Beaugency to Blois : 47 km

Change of bank to reach the jewel of the Loire Valley: Chambord. Nestled in its more than 5000 acres park, this piece of Renaissance architecture, a real work of art, conceived by Francois 1st, is waiting for you. Its astonishing double spiral staircase leads you over the terraces, under a forest of chimneys. Maybe you will have the occasion to glimpse a doe herd on the way leading you to the royal city of Blois...

Night in Blois - B&B.

D4 : Loop around Blois : 34 km

To each château, its history, its kings and symbols. Blois chateau mixes the porcupine, emblem of Louis 12, to Francois 1st salamander. It is a real architectural panorama with its 4 different style wings meeting around the honour courtyard. After visiting Blois' chateau, get on your bike towards Cheverny. The cartoonist Hergé took his inspiration from there to create Moulinsart chateau, in the adventures of Tintin.

Night in Blois - B&B.

D5 : From Blois to Chenonceau : 49 km

Reach Chaumont sur Loire chateau and its gardens following the banks of the Loire. The terraces of the chateau offers you one of the most beautiful views over the wild Loire. Be mesmerised by the gardens of the domain, each year invented by creators from all over the world. Follow your way towards Chenonceau and leave for a while the river Loire to ride along one of its tributaries, Cher. The "Ladies chateau" is besides inseparable from the river that it spans. Stroll around the gardens, marked by the spirits of Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Medicis.

Night in Chenonceau - B&B.

D6 : From Chenonceau to Tours : 35 km

Return once again to the banks of the Loire at Amboise. The royal chateau of Charles 8th and Francois 1st dominates the landscape. Discover also the Clos Lucé, the last residence of Leonardo Da Vinci, one of the greatest minds of his time. To finish your trip on a high note, Tours welcomes you amongst its ancient districts, the heart of which is the famous Plumereau square. Do not forget to taste the local gastronomy in one of the numerous riverside guinguettes of the city : Loire whitebait, eels or zander in white butter sauce washed down by a glass of fresh white wine would be a delight not to be missed.

End of your trip. Leave your rental bikes at Tours train station and travel on light !

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 Orleans or Tours : 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 Orleans or Tours : 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 33 to 54km by day, without elevation change.

PERIOD:

From April to October.

DEPARTURE AND MEETING POINT:

Departure from Orleans (45).

How to get there:

By car : A10 motorways, towards Orleans

By train : Orleans centre train station or Fleury les Aubrais train station + tramline line A towards centre town.

By plane : Orly airport or Tours airport and then, taxi (1h)

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 Orléans or Tours,
- 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 (no ROAD CYCLE)

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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