LaRébenne
VOTRE COMPAGNON DE VOYAGES

DATA SHEET - RN01

The Loire by Bike from Blois to Angers Discover a UNESCO World Heritage Site and some of the most beautiful châteaux of the Loire Valley

7 days, 6 nights and 6 days of cycling

Level: 2/5



Since 2000, the Loire Valley has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The mild climate proved so appealing to the kings that they commissioned the construction of sumptuous Renaissance châteaux on the banks of France's longest river: Chambord, of course, but also Blois, Amboise, Chenonceau, Chinon and Saumur…

Set off to explore Europe's last great wild river and its rich heritage by following the cycle routes of the 'Loire à Vélo'. From Blois to Angers, you'll cycle through the heart of the 'Valley of Kings' and the 'Garden of France'; take the time to discover the region's unique features and specialities: sample the local wines, visit the Cadre Noir in Saumur… This, too, is the French art of living.

Strengths

- The most famous sites in the Loire Valley: the châteaux of Blois, Cheverny, Chambord, Chaumont-sur-Loire, Chenonceau, Saumur and Angers
- Charming villages: Candes-Saint-Martin, Le Thoureil, Cunault and Montsoreau
- Less well-known sites: cave dwellings, the Gallo-Roman amphitheatre at Gennes, the former slate quarries at Trélazé

- A journey into the Loire lifestyle

SCHEDULE

Day 1 : Discover the royal city of Blois :

Discover the royal city of Blois. Every castle has its own history, kings and symbols. Blois Castle combines the emblem of Louis XII – the porcupine – with that of François I – the salamander. It is a veritable architectural masterpiece, with its four wings, each in a different style, gathered around the main courtyard.

Day 2 : Cheverny & Chambord : 58 km

Hop on your bike and head to Cheverny. The cartoonist Hergé drew loose inspiration from it to create Moulinsart Castle in the Adventures of Tintin. Then carry on your journey to discover the jewel of the Loire Valley: Chambord. This masterpiece of Renaissance architecture, conceived by François I, awaits you, nestled within its park covering more than 5,000 hectares. The famous double-helix staircase will lead you up to the terraces, high above the forest of chimneys. You might even be lucky enough to spot a herd of does along the way.

Day 3 : From Blois to Chenonceau, via the Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire : 49 km

Head to the Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire and its gardens, following the banks of the Loire. The château's terraces offer one of the most beautiful views of the untamed Loire. Admire the estate's gardens, which are redesigned each year by landscape architects from all over the world. Continue on your way to Chenonceau. You'll briefly leave the Loire for one of its tributaries, the Cher. The 'Château des Dames' is, in fact, inextricably linked to the river it spans. Explore the gardens, which bear the mark of Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Médicis.

Day 4 : On the road from Chenonceau to Tours, don't miss two architectural gems: the Royal Château of Amboise and the Clos Lucé : 35 km

Discover the banks of the Loire in Amboise. The royal château of Charles VIII and François I dominates the landscape. Don't miss the Clos Lucé either, the final resting place of Leonardo da Vinci, one of the greatest minds of the Renaissance. Tours welcomes you with its historic quarters, the heart of which lies on the famous Place Plum', much loved by the people of Tours. Don't forget to sample the local cuisine in one of the city's many open-air cafés: 'friture de Loire' or pikeperch in beurre blanc, accompanied by a glass of chilled wine, are just waiting for you!

Day 5 : On the route from Tours to Chinon, you can admire the châteaux of Villandry, Azay-le-Rideau and Rigny-Ussé : 68 km

Leave the Loire for a while and head for the banks of the Cher. Villandry awaits you and invites you to explore its gardens, laid out across three levels. Then, leave the Cher behind and head for a château built on an island in the Indre: Azay-le-Rideau.
Next, return to the Loire and discover the Château de Rigny-Ussé, also known as the 'Sleeping Beauty Castle', which looks as though it has stepped straight out of a fairy tale.
Next, head towards Chinon, where you'll pass through the famous AOC-classified vineyards, before arriving at the 12th-century château that was the setting for the meeting between Joan of Arc and the future King Charles VII. Do try some of the local wines, whose qualities were already praised by Rabelais back in the 16th century.ng in the sixteenth century. Spend the night in Chinon.

Day 6 : Let's head for Saumur : 39 km

After this indulgent interlude, hop on your bike and set off for Candes-Saint-Martin, at the confluence of the Vienne and the Loire. If you're feeling adventurous enough to take a detour, you can explore Fontevraud and its

royal abbey, one of the largest in Europe. Founded in 1101, the abbey was transformed over the centuries into a monastic town, then gradually into a prison town. You'll also discover the cliff-side troglodyte dwellings, which you'll ride past and explore, before arriving in Saumur, dominated by its majestic château…
You're in the capital of equestrianism – why not visit the famous Cadre Noir de Saumur at the National Riding School?
You can also sample the famous Saumur Brut in one of the town's many cave cellars – you'll be spoilt for choice!

Day 7 : Along the paths of the Loire in Anjou : 56 km

Leave Saumur and follow the left bank of the Loire. Here you'll discover a rich architectural heritage that will take you back in time: the keep and Romanesque church at Trèves, the priory church at Cunault, the Gallo-Roman amphitheatre at Gennes, and more. Continue along the 'levée' and stop off at the superb village of Le Thoureil. Once a port for gabare barges, it is still home to a few traditional open-air cafés.
You now change banks and cross former marshes reclaimed from the Loire thanks to the famous embankments. Leave the 'royal river' and take the ferry to cross the Authion. You will then pass the impressive slate quarries of Trélazé.
Here you are in Angers, dominated by its imposing two-tone castle overlooking the Maine.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Formalities :

Identity documents: Bring a valid national identity card or passport, depending on your nationality. A visa may also be required.
Supporting documents: Please bring proof of medical insurance. If you are a citizen of a European country, remember to bring your European Health Insurance Card.
Travel insurance: We recommend taking out travel insurance covering medical expenses, assistance, repatriation and cancellation.

Food :

The package includes accommodation with breakfast each morning.
Lunches and dinners are not included, giving you the freedom to choose where and what to eat at each stop along the way. There are plenty of tempting opportunities to enjoy gourmet cuisine and discover the local flavours.

Departure and meeting point :

Departure and arrival in Blois (41)
How to get there:

- By car: the A10 motorway, towards Blois.
- By train: Blois SNCF station.
- By plane: Orly or Tours airports, then by taxi.

Difficulty level :

You are in good physical condition and practise cycling or another sport fairly regularly.
The stages are between 39 and 68 km per day with little difference in altitude.You have a good physical condition and practice fairly regularly cycling or other sports activity.
Stage from 39 to 68km per day, little difference in altitude.

Accommodation :

Enjoy nights in comfortable rooms for two or three people, in guesthouses or three- or four-star hotels, depending on the option you choose. We have carefully selected these accommodation options for their warm welcome and comfort, their charm and their proximity to the route. Bed linen and towels are provided, and each room has an en-suite bathroom.
Choose the accommodation category that suits you:

- Freedom package with luggage transport and accommodation in 2* or 3* hotel or bed and breakfast (double room)
- Freedom package with luggage transport and accommodation in 3* or 4* hotel or bed and breakfast (double room)

Luggage :

Simply carry what you need for the day — we'll take care of transferring your luggage from one accommodation to the next. Each participant may bring one soft-sided bag weighing up to 20 kg, clearly labelled with the booking holder's name.

RATES

Version hotels Sélection	
Registration for 2 people	895€
Registration for 3 people	815€
Registration for 4 people	775€

Premium hotel version	
Registration for 2 people	1480€
Registration for 3 people	1380€
Registration for 4 people	1320€

The price includes :

- accommodation in a double or triple room
- breakfast
- transport of one piece of luggage per person (max. 20 kg)
- tourist taxes
- access to our smartphone navigation app
- a personalised itinerary (PDF format)
- the ability to track your booking via your personal MyLaRébenne account
- full organisation and logistics for your stay
- 24-hour telephone support

The price does not include :

- Transport to the starting point and from the finishing point
- Lunches
- Dinners
- Drinks and personal expenses
- Bike and equipment hire
- Visits not included in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Anything not mentioned under 'The price includes

GENERAL INFORMATION

How to subscribe ? :

No, no automatic forms!
At LaRébenne, we prefer to keep in touch with our travelers. We like to talk to you about our travels, and we want to maintain this relationship with you. Exchange, sharing and pleasure remain our ambition for LaRébenne travels.
Don't hesitate to contact us directly to talk about hiking or biking.
contact@larebenne.com
+33 561 652 093
+33 681 537 775

Registration, deposit and validation

Once you've chosen your trip, it's quick and easy to register!
* Either go directly to your tour's page on our website and click on registration.
* Or we can work with you to create a tailor-made tour, and send you a personalized link to your registration form.
The registration is effective when we receive your registration form with your acceptance of the general terms and conditions of sale, accompanied by the deposit of 30% of the tour price. You will then receive an acknowledgement of receipt of your registration.

100% secure payment
You can pay by credit card (faster) or bank transfer.

Payment of balance

The balance must be paid one month before the departure date. You will find your invoice on your My LaRébenne space, as well as a payment link to the balance of your stay.

Invitation to depart

On receipt of payment of the balance, your travel diary will be available in your customer area on My LaRébenne, where you will find all the information you need for your trip, as well as your invoice.

Insurance :

In accordance with regulations, each participant in a LaRébenne trip must hold individual civil liability as well as individual multi-risk cover to protect themselves against incidents or accidents that may occur before or during the tour or bike trip.
Assistance mainly covers search and rescue, repatriation and medical expenses. It comes into play as soon as a medical report makes it possible to decide on repatriation. Repatriation, known as "premature return", can also be arranged for reasons other than the insured's own, such as the death of a family member (see cases in the insurance booklet). Beforehand, in regions far from medical facilities and difficult to access, you must agree to the organization of first aid using local resources (4X4, porters, horses, etc.).
This contract also covers loss, theft or delayed delivery of baggage, as well as interruption of stay.
The insurance protects against the financial risk of cancellation. It is very important to have this type of insurance in case of cancellation due to a health problem or for professional reasons.

We suggest you take out one of the three policies we have selected, bearing in mind that we only act as an intermediary between you and the insurer. Any additional insurance is invoiced per person and must be taken out on the day of booking:

- "Multirisque" contract (4.5%), minimum premium 15 euros:
  Repatriation assistance + tour interruption + luggage + cancellation.

  See the complete contract

- "Cancellation" contract (2.5%), minimum premium 10 euros:
  Cancellation only.

  See the complete contract

- "Repatriation assistance" contract (1.6%), minimum premium of 10 euros:
  Repatriation assistance + tour interruption + luggage.

  See the complete contract

As far as "civil liability abroad" is concerned, only French residents are covered.

Informations :

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