



Western Touraine: Nature & Chateaux by bike 2012 – Ref.: CM2GB

This itinerary will lead you to the banks of the Loire River and its tributaries: The Cher, the Indre and the Vienne. The secure bike paths of the “Loire on Bike” and the back country roads will allow you to pedal and navigate at your own rhythm in a natural environment listed in the UNESCO National Heritage.

On the way, you will salute Villandry and its French style gardens, the magnificent Renaissance Castle of Azay-Le-Rideau, delightfully set on the Indre, the Castle of Sleeping Beauty, but also the fully renovated Royal Fortress of Chinon and the medieval Castle of Langeais where French history was forever changed.

The river and its tributaries that you might discover in a canoe will enchant you as much as the National Forest of Chinon. The selected short legs of this trip will leave you time for ample discovery. The variety of natural and historic landscapes will appeal to young and old.

Detailed Program:



Day 1: Arrival in Tours at your chosen time

Choose your arrival time in Tours, a city very reachable by TGV high-speed train in less than 2 hours from downtown Paris or directly from CDG Airport. From the Tours station, reach your hotel in the Old Quarter on foot in 10mn, or in taxi, and then enjoy your evening in the ambiance of this university town. Night in a *** hotel.

Around 9:30, you will meet with one of the members of the LVN team at your hotel. He or she will show your bikes, give you tourist brochures and answer your questions. You will then take the bike path from downtown Tours to the Cher and to Villandry. A stop at the Petrified Caves of Savonnières will cool you down before the visit of the nearby French Renaissance gardens of Villandry. Night in *** hotel, diner included.

Day 2: First biking day, from Tours to Villandry 22km



Day 3: Canoe in the morning « between Cher and Loire » (17km-3 hours) then bike from Bréhémont to Azay-Le-Rideau (12km), or bike from Villandry to Azay-Le-Rideau (13km+21km)

If you wish, we will pick you up at your hotel and offer you to go down the Cher and Loire from Savonnières to Bréhémont. Your bikes will be waiting for you downriver to continue on to Azay-Le-Rideau by the Valley of the Indre. For those who prefer solid ground, you will leave the valley toward the hillside, and today's itinerary will have you cross the orchards of Touraine where apple and pear trees will punctuate your way. An additional side trip will allow you to pay homage to Honoré de Balzac and to discover a slew of basket weaving artisans in their own weaving village. Night in a *** hotel.

A refreshing leg for this day through the National Forest of Chinon. Here the terrain is a bit arduous but the ups and downs will test your endurance. You earn your stop in the heart of the famous medieval town of Chinon, city of art and history. A visit of the royal city awaits you. Night in *** hotel. Diner included.

Day 4: 3rd biking day, from Azay-Le-Rideau to Chinon, through the National Forest of Chinon (29km)



Day 5: Last biking day from Chinon to Langeais, by the Castle of Rigny- Ussé (41km)

Little back country roads in the middle of the bocage and bike paths will bring you back where you started, through Avoine and its giant slide. On the way, stop by the Castle of Rigny-Ussé that inspired Charles Perrault to write the famous Sleeping Beauty fairytale. Finally, you will arrive at the medieval Castle of Langeais that you might have seen from the canoe on Day 3. Night in ***B&B.

After breakfast, departure from Langeais, at your chosen time and by train.

Day 6: Departure

Practical Information : 675€ per person

-20% for children 16 and under (discount of 135€) and FREE for children 2 and under

The quoted price includes:

Lodging in 2 and 3 star hotels (or B&B), all taxes included, based on double occupancy

5 breakfasts per person.

2 diners (drinks non included).

A welcome session by a member of the Loire Vélo Nature team.

A roadbook with itineraries, maps, useful advice and tourist brochures.

5 days bike and biking equipment rental (helmet, map holder, back panniers, bike computer), theft insurance and on-the-road SOS bike repair

Canoe rental (2-3 men) with equipment (maps, life jackets, paddles, waterproof container).

Shuttle from hotel to canoe rental and bike transfer to arrival point.

Luggage transfer between each lodging point.



« Our proposed trips have been carefully selected and the itineraries fully tested. Our roadbooks are very easy to use, our maps and instructions are clear and precise.
Have a nice trip! ».

Céline DODOKAL, Co-owner of Loire Vélo Nature

Practical Info:

Availability: April 1st to October 31st.

Length of stay: 6 days / 5 nights.

Departure date: any.

Level of difficulty: open to all, mainly flat with some hills.

Canoe activity: You need to know how to swim (activity non mandatory).

We reserve the right to change the itinerary based on hotel availability.

The quoted price does not include:

The supplement of 190€ for single occupancy.

Lunches.

Travel from your home to Tours and from Langeais to your home.

Personal expenses (drinks, entrance tickets, wine tasting, telephone...).

Personal insurance.

Informations légales :

Etablissement immatriculé au registre des opérateurs de voyages et de séjours sous le n° IM037100023, à effet du 21/12/2010

RC Professionnelle GENERALI Assurances IARD (contrat n° AL 042316)

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