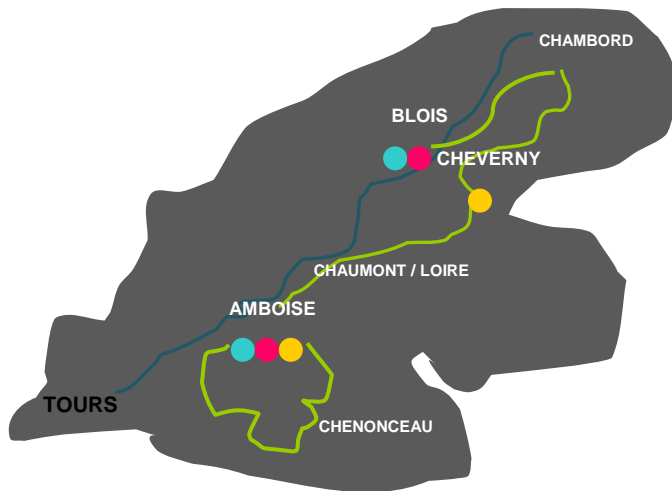


COLOURS OF FRANCE LOIRE VALLEY BIKING

4 NIGHTS / 5 DAYS
BLOIS TO AMBOISE



EXPLORE

LOIRE VALLEY AT YOUR OWN PACE

Day 1: Arrival in Blois

Upon your arrival in Blois, you can settle in to your hotel, in the heart of Blois. Our Trip Manager will meet you at the hotel to check your bike fitting and go over the trip package with you. You will also want to take some time to explore this small city. Spanning both sides of the Loire River, the town is a maze of twisting cobblestoned streets and stairways, interspersed with beautiful half-timbered houses and lively squares and parks. Of course, you can also visit the Royal Chateau of Blois, residence of 7 kings and 10 queens of France, and the first historical residence to be restored (in 1845) acting as a model for the restoration of many of the other chateaux. Today it is also the Art Museum of the city, filled with more than 35,000 works of art. Dinner is included this evening at one of our favourite local restaurants. (please note, the DELUXE itinerary stays in nearby Cheverny; a transfer to the hotel from the train station in Blois is included).

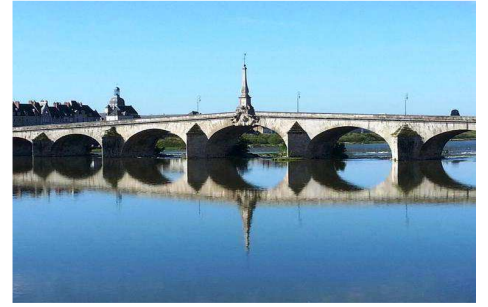
Day 2 : Loop ride to Chateau de Chambord 49 km

Your route takes you along a great and easygoing bike path following the Loire River, eastwards to the bridge at Muides. From there, curve away from the banks of the Loire, southwards through pretty villages like Ste Dye. From there, it is not too far to reach the Chateau de Chambord by the end of the morning. For one of your first chateau visit in the region, it is one of the most impressive. A monumental Royal hunting residence, built by King Francois I in the heart of a huge enclosed forest, the Chateau of Chambord is a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture. The size of it alone is astonishing, along with the beautiful sculpted details throughout the building. After exploring Chambord, your route turns back towards Blois, through lovely quiet countryside and several villages, before returning to the Loire River. We leave you to explore the restaurants of Blois for your dinner this evening.



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Day 3 : Blois to Amboise via Chateau Chaumont 45 km

You leave Blois today, riding out from the town southwards through the tranquil small roads of the Rully Forest, and small villages, south of the Loire River. Decide if you want to detour to Cellettes in the morning to visit the Chateau de Beauregard with its famous Gallery of Portraits, over 26m long. Onwards along the Beuvron River valley to rejoin the Loire in pretty Candés, and then follow a great bike path to Chaumont. The Chateau de Chaumont, acquired by the powerful Catherine de Medicis in 1560, is today renowned for its English-style Garden Festival where contemporary garden designers display their work. Your route continues, meandering through small villages and pretty vineyards all the way to Amboise, your destination for the day. Famous not only for its chateau, which dominates the town, but also for the beautiful "Clos de Lucé" manor house which was Leonardo Da Vinci's residence whilst he was in the service of the French King. You can visit it, and admire the models of his inventions, as well as see the chapel at the chateau where he is buried... We include your dinner this evening in a restaurant with great ambiance in the medieval centre.

Day 4 : Chateau de Chenonceau Loop ride 46 km

Today's route takes you southward, away from the Loire River along quiet, un-trafficked roads through forests and fields, and eventually descending to another river, the Cher, and the Château de Chenonceau, a wall of elegance spanning it. Renaissance Chenonceau is one of the most popular chateaux in France. It was completed in the 16th century, when it was given as a gift by King Henry II to his beloved mistress, Diane de Poitiers. Diane has the stunning arched corridor across the river constructed and oversees the planting of extensive gardens. She was the unquestioned mistress of the castle, but after King Henry II died in 1559, his strong-willed widow and regent Catherine de' Medici forced Diane to exchange it for the Château Chaumont, and triumphantly makes Chenonceau her own residence. After visiting the tranquil scene of such feminine battling, and finding some lunch in the neighbouring village, your route takes you back through the pretty countryside and quiet roads and bike path to Amboise for your final evening.

Day 5 : Departure – Bon Voyage!

After a final breakfast, we will transfer you to Tours train station for your further travels – Bon Voyage!



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What's Included

- 4 nights' accommodation of the comfort level of your choice CLASSIC, CLASSIC + or DELUXE
- All breakfasts, 2 dinners (drinks not included with dinners)
- Orientation with our Trip Manager at the start of the trip
- Fully equipped quality hybrid bike
- Detailed maps and step-by-step route notes
- Regional information and advice
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Transfer to Tours centre or St Pierre de Corps train station at the end of your trip

