



★★★★★ (7)

Castles on River Loire

LA ROUTE ROYALE

There are no limits to the romance of the Loire Valley. The cycle tour starts in Tours, a pretty town between the Cher and Loire rivers. Cultural wealth, rural charm and romantic architecture: these three terms best describe a tour on two wheels through France.

In between all the famous castles of the Loire you cycle through the charming landscape from city to city. Always taking centre stage: the culture! Kings, feudal lords and court ladies once enjoyed a noble life here. Today you can explore the historical residences and be transported back in time. Would you like an extra helping of history? Then come with us on a cycle tour over La Route Royale!

Route Royale details

The castles Langeais, Ussé, Villandry, Azay-le-Rideau – to name but a few – form the dream route 'La Route Royale'. The first-class mix of unmistakable architecture and impressive landscapes make the cycle tour to the castles of the Loire an unforgettable experience. We'll tell you now which highlights are waiting for you!

The highlights of the Loire Castles

- **Villandry & Ussé Castles:** The first magnificent castle on your trip is Villandry Castle. Its unique terrace gardens, the flower-covered arbours and the numerous fountains invite you to dream. On the way to Chinon, Ussé Castle stands on the edge of the forest. The sleeping beauty castle sparks the imagination about the famous fairy tale from Brothers Grimm. You will love it!
- **Azay-le-Rideau:** On the cycle path through old vineyards and villages you will reach Crissay. With its buildings and houses from the 15th Century, the village is one of the most beautiful in France.

Medium



8 Days / 7 Nights



Self-guided Tour

To the online version



Itinerary

DAY
1

Arrival in Tours

In the late afternoon is the welcome briefing and handing over of rental bikes (if booked).

Sample hotel category A: [Ibis Styles Centre](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Au Relais St. Eloi](#)

DAY
2

Tours – Chinon | approx. 55 km

The river Cher leads you directly to the castle Villandry with its terraced gardens. Certainly, you should not miss paying a visit to this famous installation. Every visitor will be amazed by the shadowy footpaths, the flower-bedecked bowers, the fountains and the artistically laid out vegetable gardens. Some kilometres further on you will exchange the bank of the Cher for the bank of the famous Loire. And again you will be tempted by the next castle – Langeais. From the top of the fortified tower (this castle exclusively served for military purposes) you will see the river and its whole surroundings lying in front of you. On the verge of the dark and mysterious forest of Chinon rises the castle of Ussé, the castle of the Sleeping Beauty. Via small villages and on side roads you will reach today's destination – Chinon.

Sample hotel category A: [Diderot](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Rive Sud](#)

DAY
3

Round tour Fontevraud l'Abbaye – Chinon | approx. 55 km

The Vienne escorts you first in the small village Candès-St-Martin. A grandiose and romantic church was built at the place of death of the holy St. Martin. In Montsoreau conflate the Vienne with the powerful Loire – a impressive natural spectacle. These 'cave gardens' are approx. 800 km long. Your cyclist calves take you first to Fontevraud l'Abbaye. Nowhere else in this world, you will find a medieval monastery that is so entirely preserved like the one in Fontevraud. You pass the birth house of Francois Rabelais, the famous author and also through the valley, where his story line of the book "Gargantua" takes place.

Sample hotel category A: [Diderot](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Rive Sud](#)

DAY
4*Chinon – Azay-le-Rideau* | approx. 40 km

You leave Chinon with its medieval alleys, which crowd between the river and the rocks, towards the north. The tour leads you through vineyards and lonely villages. Like Crissay, once entirely deserted – it is now resettled by artists and people who always know how to make the best of things. But don't be afraid – there will also be a castle for admiration today: to be precise, one of extremely high quality – Azay-le-Rideau. Balzac wrote about it "a diamond with thousand facets, set by the Indre". What could we add to this? You will spend the night in town and have, therefore, the chance to enjoy the magic of the castle with its cultural events.

Sample hotel category A: [de Biencourt](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Val de Loire](#)

DAY
5*Azay-le-Rideau – Chenonceaux* | approx. 60 km

There is another highlight in store: this time concerning nature. Through the romantic river landscape, steadily following the Indre, you will reach Montbazou. A short ascent awaits you. By pedalling really hard over a mountain ridge you reach the Cher Valley. On meadow paths and along the Cher you go to Bléré, a small market town. For many visitors the Castle of Chenonceaux is the topping on the cake. A magnificent, double floored bridge gallery goes over the river. But before the lovely palace garden will enthuse your eyes. But see and discover on your own.

Sample hotel category A: [La Roseraie](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Logis Le Relais](#)

DAY
6*Chenonceaux – Blois* | approx. 50/80 km

Today you have to choose between two tour variants: the shorter stage takes you through the lovely landscape of the Touraine to the Castle Chaumont, and then on romantic paths along the Loire to Blois. After moving into your hotel room you will go out on reconnaissance! The Castle Blois with its galleries, projected balconies and bay windows could be your destination.

Or there is the second, longer variant for all lovers of the Loire Castles: via Montrichard, Cheverny, Villesavine to the Castle Chambord. As far as the eye can see the 'Domaine de Chambord' stretches here. Already from a distance, you can see the walls of the biggest and most magnificent residence on the Loire shimmering through the trees. It is the immortal legacy of a disloyal king. You are spoilt for choice!

Sample hotel category A: [Best Western Chateau](#)

Sample hotel category B: [Le Monarque](#)

DAY
7***Blois – Tours*** | approx. 75 km

The river flows between the gold shimmering sandbanks in a leisurely manner. Typical of this area are the rock housings, which are directly built into the soft lime stones. Sometimes, only the rising smoke reveals their existence. You cross the Loire in order to appreciate the most royal of all the Loire Castles: Castle Ambois. It accommodated five kings and a Roman emperor. In addition, a genius of the 16th century attracts your attention – Leonardo da Vinci, who spent his last years in Ambois. On the Loire Cycle Path you keep cycling on to Tours. Alternatively take the train (independently) from Amboise and hence cut the stage short by about 30 km.

Sample hotel category A: [Ibis Styles Centre](#)

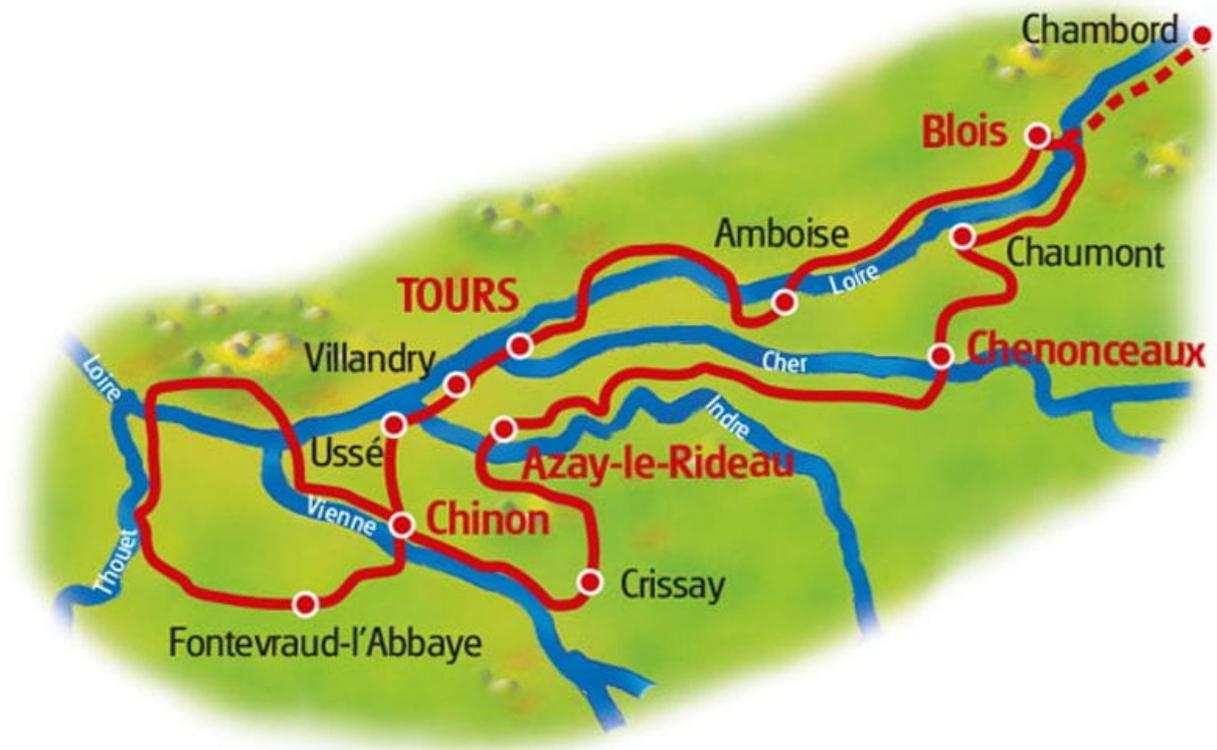
Sample hotel category B: [Au Relais St. Eloi](#)

DAY
8***Departure or extension***

C'est la vie – it's funny the way things turn out. But today your biking tour to the Loire Castles is finished. After having a last substantial breakfast you have to say goodbye to the most delightful region in France!

Tour character

Mainly flat on cycle paths and low traffic secondary roads with almost consistently very good signposting. The terrain in the vineyards is somewhat more hilly and there are also a few short ascents to tackle.



Prices and events

Place of arrival: Tours

	Season 1 03.04.2021 - 23.04.2021 25.09.2021 - 09.10.2021 Arrival Saturday and Thursday	Season 2 24.04.2021 - 18.06.2021 04.09.2021 - 24.09.2021 Arrival Saturday and Thursday	Season 3 19.06.2021 - 03.09.2021 Arrival Saturday and Thursday
Castles on River Loire, 8 days, cat. A, FR-LORTT-08A			
Base price	79900	85900	89900
Surcharge single room	29900	29900	29900
Castles on River Loire, 8 days, cat. B, FR-LORTT-08B			
Base price	69900	75900	79900
Surcharge single room	28900	28900	28900

Category A: 3*** hotels (French classification)

Category B: 2** and 3*** hotels (French classification)

Additional nights

Place of arrival: Tours

	Season 1 Apr 3, 2021 - Apr 23, 2021 Sep 25, 2021 - Oct 9, 2021 Arrival Saturday and Thursday	Season 2 Apr 24, 2021 - Jun 18, 2021 Sep 4, 2021 - Sep 24, 2021 Arrival Saturday and Thursday	Season 3 Jun 19, 2021 - Sep 3, 2021 Arrival Saturday and Thursday
Tours			
Double room p. P. cat. A	6500	6500	6500
Surcharge single room	4500	4500	4500
Tours			
Double room p. P. cat. B	6500	6500	6500

	Season 1 Apr 3, 2021 - Apr 23, 2021 Sep 25, 2021 - Oct 9, 2021 Arrival Saturday and Thursday	Season 2 Apr 24, 2021 - Jun 18, 2021 Sep 4, 2021 - Sep 24, 2021 Arrival Saturday and Thursday	Season 3 Jun 19, 2021 - Sep 3, 2021 Arrival Saturday and Thursday
Surcharge single room	45.00	45.00	45.00

Our rental bikes

Filter

21-gear unisex incl. rental bike insurance	85.00
21-gear gents incl. rental bike insurance	85.00
7-gear unisex with back pedal break incl. rental bike insurance	85.00
rental bike PLUS incl. rental bike insurance	129.00
Electric bike incl. rental bike insurance	189.00

Prices per person in EUR

Services and infos

Services

Included

- Accommodation in your selected category
- Breakfast buffet or an extensive breakfast
- Welcome briefing (German, English)
- Luggage transfer between the hotels
- Well elaborated route
- Detailed travel documents 1x per room (German, English, with route maps, route description, local attractions, important telephone numbers)
- Signposting
- GPS-data is available
- Service hotline

Optional extras

- Bike rental, including rental bike insurance

Infos

Arrival / Parking / Departure

- Tours Train station
- Paris airport
- Hotel garage costs EUR 40 per week, no reservation possible/necessary.

Things to note

- Tourist tax, if due, is not included in the price!
- Further important information according to the package travel law can be found [here!](#)

Contact & booking

Do you still have questions about the tour? We are happy to help and look forward to your inquiry.



Vanessa Bräumann, Travel Specialist



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Book now

