











★★★★★ (10)

# CYCLING HOLIDAYS CASTLES ON RIVER LOIRE

Bicycle: 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! 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!



8 Days / 7 Nights



Self-guided tour

To the online version



# ITINERARY

DAY  
1

## Arrival in Blois

Discover the historic old town and the imposing castle, already the kings of France were magically attracted to this place.

DAY  
2

## Blois – Tours

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.

 approx. 75 km       155 m       160 m

DAY  
3

## Tours – Chinon

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.

 approx. 55 km       235 m       220 m

DAY  
4**Excursion Fontevraud L'Abbaye**

The Vienne escorts you first in the small village Candes-St-Matin. 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 impressing natural spectacle. These 'cave gardens' are approx. 800 km long. Your cyclist calves take you first to Fontevraud l'Abbey.

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.

 approx. 55 km       140 m       130 m

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DAY  
5**Chinon – Azay-le-Rideau**

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.




 approx. 40 km       205 m       175 m

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DAY  
6**Azay-le-Rideau – Chenonceaux**

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.

 approx. 60 km       180 – 265 m       160 – 225 m

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DAY  
7

Chenonceaux – Blois

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 Chambrod’ 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!

 approx. 50 – 80 km       220 m       215 m

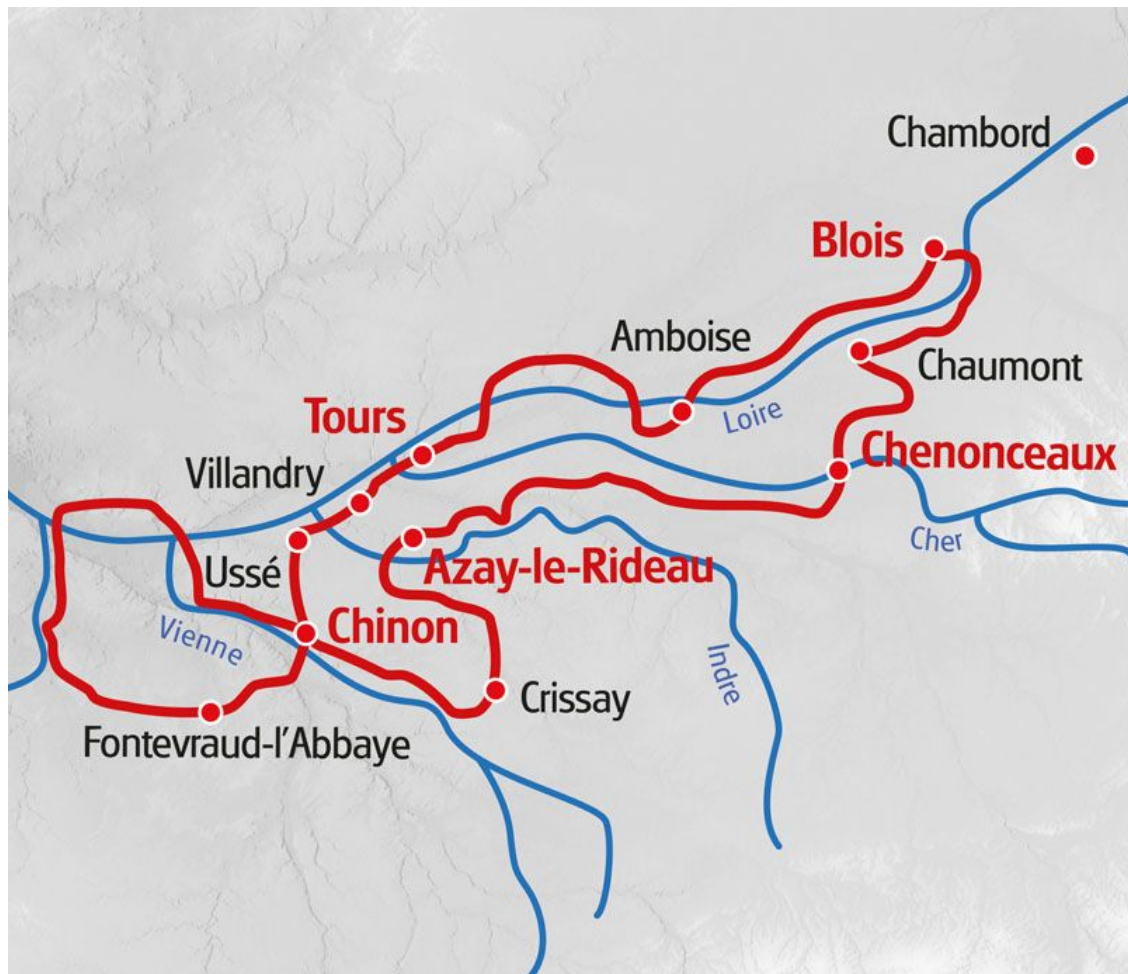
DAY  
8

Departure or extension



# 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 & DATES

PLACE OF ARRIVAL: BLOIS

	<div>Season 1</div> <div>23.03.2024 - 12.04.2024  </div> <div>28.09.2024 - 14.10.2024  </div> <div>Arrival daily</div>	<div>Season 2</div> <div>13.04.2024 - 10.05.2024  </div> <div>07.09.2024 - 27.09.2024  </div> <div>Arrival daily</div>	<div>Season 3</div> <div>11.05.2024 -</div> <div>06.09.2024  </div> <div>Arrival daily</div>
Castles on River Loire, 8 days, cat. A, FR-LORBB-08A			
Base price	1'145.-	1'275.-	1'365.-
Surcharge single room	425.-	425.-	425.-
Castles on River Loire, 8 days, cat. B, FR-LORBB-08B			
Base price	995.-	1'119.-	1'199.-
Surcharge single room	425.-	425.-	425.-

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

ADDITIONAL NIGHTS

PLACE OF ARRIVAL: BLOIS

	<div>Season 1</div> <div>Mar 23, 2024 - Apr 12, 2024  </div> <div>Sep 28, 2024 - Oct 14, 2024  </div> <div>Arrival daily</div>	<div>Season 2</div> <div>Apr 13, 2024 - May 10, 2024  </div> <div>Sep 7, 2024 - Sep 27, 2024  </div> <div>Arrival daily</div>	<div>Season 3</div> <div>May 11, 2024 - Sep</div> <div>6, 2024  </div> <div>Arrival daily</div>
Blois			
Double room pp Cat. A	79.-	79.-	89.-
Surcharge single room	55.-	55.-	55.-
Blois			



	<b>Season 1</b> Mar 23, 2024 - Apr 12, 2024   Sep 28, 2024 - Oct 14, 2024   Arrival daily	<b>Season 2</b> Apr 13, 2024 - May 10, 2024   Sep 7, 2024 - Sep 27, 2024   Arrival daily	<b>Season 3</b> May 11, 2024 - Sep 6, 2024   Arrival daily
Surcharge single room	55.-	55.-	55.-
<b>Blois</b>			
Double room pp Cat. B	75.-	75.-	
Surcharge single room	75.-	75.-	
<b>Blois</b>			
Surcharge single room	75.-	75.-	

Our rental bikes

	Price
Bicycle 21-gear unisex	109.-
Bicycle 21-gear gents	109.-
Bicycle-PLUS	189.-
Electric bicycle	289.-

Prices per person in CHF

# SERVICES & INFORMATION

## Services

### Included:

- Accommodation in your selected category incl. breakfast
- Daily luggage transfer
- Carefully elaborated route
- Detailed tour documents 1x per room (German, English, French)
- App for Navigation and GPS-data
- Service hotline

### Note:

- Tourist tax, if due, is not included
- Bike rental, including rental bike insurance
- Reservation fee of CHF 20.- per adult (incl. legally required customer money protection)

## Information

### Arrival/Parking/Departure:

- Blois Train station
- Paris airport
- Public garage costs approx. CHF 30.- per week, no reservation possible/necessary

### Other important information:

- The distance travelled is approximate and may differ from the actual distance.
- Travel cancellation insurance, including travel interruption insurance is recommended.



# CONTACT & BOOKING

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

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**Book now**